Bengaluru Sunday, March 8, 2026 Pages 26 Vol 79 No 67 ₹8

DH on Sunday

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Lakshya battles into the final

The 24-year-old shuttler defeats Canada's Lai over three games in the All England semis

P10

Travel *Page16*

Get set, Rann

Kutch has much to offer, from its mesmerising salt marshes to stunning sunrises, and local arts and crafts

Art & Pursuits *Page18*

Gilded glamour

The dazzling State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg houses one of the world's largest collections of art

Western Ghats under siege, warnings ignored

As the Western Ghats' carrying capacity reaches its limit, projects continue while forests and rivers face mounting threats

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Flattened by vehicle tyres, frog carcasses lay scattered along a stretch of National Highway 206, between Talaguppa and Kathlekan, as researchers carefully recorded the deaths in a small notebook. During the four-day survey in June 2008, they counted 144 dead individuals within a stretch of 3.6 km. We observed that the stretch along the forests had the highest number (66), compared with 47 for the stretches on agricultural land and 31 for ponds.

The impact of large-scale projects on the Western Ghats is rarely studied. PHOTO BY JANEKERE R PARAMESH

"Not only was the number of individuals higher in the forest stretch, but the number of species was also greater, indicating higher overall diversity along the section passing through the forests," said K S Seshadri, then a research assistant and now a faculty member at Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment, Bengaluru.

INSIGHT

Frogs and toads are widely regarded as vital indicators of a healthy ecosystem. Sensitive to environmental changes, they are often among the first species to be affected, much earlier than apex predators such as tigers or small mammals.

However, ecological damage caused by rampant land-use changes over the last three decades has gone largely unnoticed, as warnings were either not studied or ignored.

Data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) shows that threats to the flora and fauna of the Western Ghats in Karnataka have increased over the past two decades.

Of the 1,282 species of amphibians analysed in Karnataka between 1998 and 2025, 239 species — nearly one in five — have entered the threatened category while insufficient data exists to assess as many as 111 species.

The rising threat is visible in the numbers. In 2011, the IUCN assessed 369 species and found that 53 (14%) were threatened. Between 2022 and 2025, 327 species were assessed, and 91 (28%) were classified as threatened, indicating a sharp increase in the number of threatened species in recent years.

In fact, more than half (130) of the 239 species on the threatened list in Karnataka are endemic, with 106 of them restricted to specific parts of the Western Ghats. Among them is the iconic dancing frog, a stream dwelling amphibian whose behaviour changes even with a small increase in water level.

▸ Western Ghats carrying capacity, Page 2

J&K's moment of hope as cricketers bowl over state

From underdogs to champions, Jammu & Kashmir's cricket team has reignited hope, fostered unity and celebrated the enduring spirit of the Idea of India

LT GEN BHOPINDER SINGH (RETD)

Sports cannot resolve conflict. But sometimes, they can rewrite a narrative. The wonderful sport of cricket often leaves room for the improbable — yet for conflict-stricken Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) to win the biggest trophy in a sport considered a religion in India is beyond improbable. In sad times of 'othering', J&K is not expected to win anything. But it did, shocking the naysayers who often fail to understand the power of resilience and, above all, unity. This raises an important question: Why do we discount J&K so easily, and so routinely?

The **SUNDAY STORY**

Describing the breathtaking beauty of Kashmir, Mughal emperor Jahangir famously said, "*Agar firdaus bar ru-ye zamin ast, Hamin ast-o hamin ast-o hamin ast*" (If there is a paradise on earth, it is this, it is this, it is this). The other part of the largest princely state of the British Raj — Jammu & Kashmir, is the valiant land of the fearless Dogra warriors. Serving as the first line of defense against waves of invaders since antiquity, the Dogras are arguably among the most war-decorated ethnic groups in the annals of India's Armed Forces.

Within the infantry alone, they populate gallant regiments such as the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles (the parent regiment of the current Army Chief), the Dogra Regiment, the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry and the Punjab Regiment. They also serve across other arms and services with a quiet dignity that has earned them the sobriquet of "Gentleman Soldiers". They trace their martial legacy to the legendary Dogra warrior, General Zorawar Singh, often referred to as the "Napoleon of India". His remarkable campaigns extended into regions that are today under the control of Pakistan or China, including Gilgit, Baltistan, Skardu and parts of Tibet.

However, in the popular imagination of the nation, the identity of J&K is often associated with terrorism, Article 370, the Jammu-Kashmir divide, or discredited politicians. This is an unfair and uncharitable perception, rooted in simplistic and reductive logic that often serves an unhinged purpose in this era of hyper-nationalism, majoritarianism and vacuous optics of 'muscular politics'.

History, however, is far more complex. Few realise, for instance, that the genesis of the now much-bandied Article 370 did not lie with the Kashmiris themselves. There has indeed been violence, anti-national sentiment and even secessionist espousals in the region. Yet similar phases have occurred in places such as Punjab, Mizoram and even the hill tracts of Darjeeling.

Thankfully, no one ascribes any mal-intent to the people of those regions. Regrettably, that same dignity and sense of inclusion are not always afforded to many, especially from the Kashmir Valley, or now even from Leh.

As India aspires to move forward, the nation's perception of J&K urgently needs a reset.

▸ J&K cricket, Page 2

The J&K cricket team celebrate after their first-ever victory in the Ranji Trophy, in Hubballi. DH PHOTO/GOVINDRAJ JAVALI

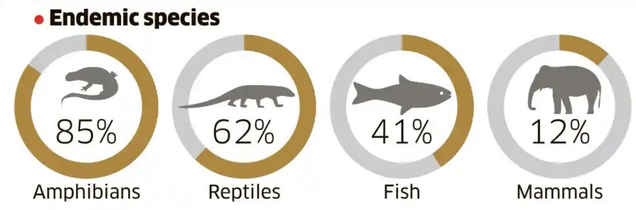
Ecosystems left without restoration plans

An ecosystem in peril

- The Western Ghats region of Karnataka, which extends across six Indian states, is recognised as one of the **world's 35 biodiversity hotspots** due to its high degree of endemism
- Karnataka's Western Ghats generate seven river systems; **12 west-flowing rivers supply** about **60% of the state's surface water** from just **12.73% of the drainage area**
- A 2025 IUCN report classified the Western Ghats as a site of **"significant concern"** due to threats from infrastructure development, tourism, urbanisation and the loss of evergreen forests

HIGH LEVEL OF ENDEMISM

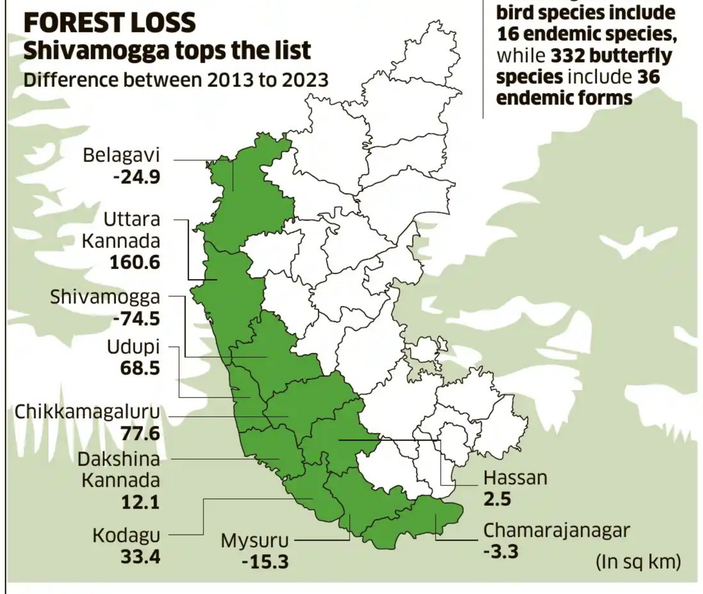
- The Western Ghats show a very high level of endemism, with about **4,000–5,000 plant** species recorded
- Of the 650 **tree species** found, 352 are **endemic**
- **Endemic species**



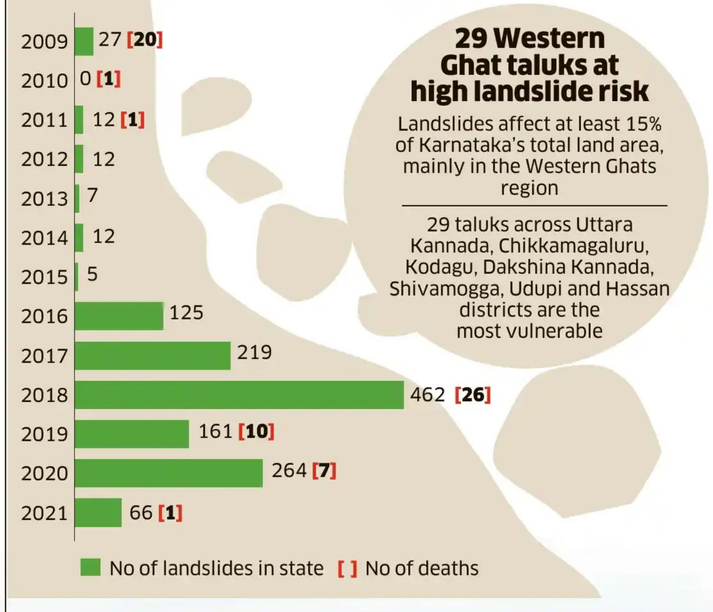
- The region is home to threatened species like the **Asian elephant, Indian gaur and tiger, and endangered-endemic** species like the **lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri tahr and Nilgiri langur**

- The region's **508 bird species include 16 endemic species,** while **332 butterfly species** include **36 endemic forms**

FOREST LOSS
Shivamogga tops the list
Difference between 2013 to 2023



Rise in landslide incidents since 2016



29 Western Ghat taluks at high landslide risk

Landslides affect at least 15% of Karnataka's total land area, mainly in the Western Ghats region

29 taluks across Uttara Kannada, Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada, Shivamogga, Udupi and Hassan districts are the most vulnerable

Caught in the middle

- Adivasis, or indigenous communities traditionally living in and dependent on forests, are affected by development projects and the establishment of tiger reserves
- Communities such as Yerava, Kudiya, Jenu Kuruba, Kadu Kuruba and Soliga in Kodagu moved to its fringes
- Adivasis in Nagarahole have been protesting for over three decades for the restoration of their rights
- STs account for 42% of maternal deaths and 29% of infant deaths in Kodagu, indicating the overall health status of the tribal population

(Sources: CAG report on 'Administration of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in Karnataka', KSNMDC, Inspection report constituted by MoEF as per SC orders,CAG report on disaster management in Karnataka, IUCN's World Heritage Outlook 4 (2025) report), KSWGCTC, India State of Forest Report 2023)

Mini-hydel projects, big eco footprint

- Western Ghats house 26 mini-hydel projects
- These projects fall under the white category industries or environmentally non-polluting category
- Cumulatively, these projects along the stream and its tributaries lead to land-use changes, habitat fragmentation and disruption of environmental flows and local ecology

Power projects proposed/under consideration

1. Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project **(2000 MW)**
2. Varahi Pumped Storage Project
3. Kaginahare Pumped Storage Project **(1500MW)**
4. Aghanashini Hydro Electric project **(600 MW):** Mavinagadde Dam
5. Kali River basin- Kali Hydro Electric Project – stage III **(300 MW)**
6. Sattegala Pumped Storage Project **(100 MW)**
7. Bharachukki Pumped Storage Project **(150 MW)**

Other major projects

- Mahatma Gandhi Power project **(139 MW)**
- Lingnamakki Power Station **(55 MW)** and Sharavathi Power Station **(1035 MW)**

Why landslides are on the rise

- High intensity or prolonged rainfall
- Modification of natural slopes
- Blockage of natural drainage
- Water flows forcefully from within the slope
- Flash flood due to temporary dam formation in nala
- Geological causes (Geological lineaments / structures)

COMPILED BY
CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI AND
DIVYASHRI MUDAKAVI
DH GRAPHIC: **SAGAR M S**

Western Ghats carrying capacity, from Page 1

These frogs perch on small rocks in the streams, and wave their feet to defend territories. The iconic dancing frog is now classified as critically endangered.

For hundreds of species like the dancer frog, pesticide runoff from agricultural fields is enough to alter behaviour, while increased water turbidity from road construction disrupts the complex communication systems of fish. The muddy water interferes with the electrical signals fish use to communicate.

No assessment

Yet, the devastation caused by large-scale projects such as the Yettinahole drinking water project in Hassan district is rarely studied, leaving ecosystems without any restoration measures.

The crisis was foreseen by many experts, including the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) led by Madhav Gadgil and the High Level Working Group (HLWG) of K Kasturirangan. Particularly, Gadgil's much-maligned report warned about the impending ecological crisis in the Western Ghats, and its consequences for the lives and livelihoods of lakhs of people dependent on the region.

The cost of ignoring Gadgil report and subsequent studies has been high, with the burden borne largely by vulnerable communities and ecosystems that contributed little to the damage. Studies published by the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority show that landslides have claimed over 60 lives since 2009 while floods killed 248 between 2018 and 2020, with most victims belonging to vulnerable sections of society.

In 2010, the Ministry of Environment and Forests filed an affidavit before the Supreme Court stating that all tourism, wind power and hydro power projects should be "stayed immediately" until a technical report on the Ghats' carrying capacity was prepared. The report, it said, should also be used to review projects that had already received environmental clearance.

The Supreme Court transferred the matter to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which ordered the preparation of the report. The report was submitted in July 2018, following an order by the NGT. Assessing projects based on the carrying capacity of the area was seen as a 'middle path' between the "prohibitive and regulatory regime" of the Kasturirangan Committee Report and the unchecked environmental destruction caused by commercial projects.

No-go area

The report analysed the 1,464 villages that had been notified as sensitive in 10 districts by the HLWG and classified them into three categories. It noted that the Western Ghats region of Karnataka has four national parks, 10 sanctuaries, four tiger reserves, 13 tiger corridors and four conservation reserves including part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, together covering 594 villages.

"Accordingly, the committee suggests declaring the entire 1,281 villages as 'No Go' areas for all developmental activities to protect the ecosystem vitality and human health," the report said, classifying the remaining villages as highly sensitive (56) and medium sensitive (115).

In fact, the Ghats already bear heavy weight. Apart from the 26 mini-hydel projects, many of them in critically sensitive areas, an average of two national highways and state highways run through the forests in the 10 Ghats districts. More pumped storage projects and river diversion projects are in the pipeline.

Besides opposing several hydel projects, the report made specific recommendations to mitigate the damage caused by the linear projects, industries and other development activities.

Report ignored

M D Subash Chandran, whose analysis formed the basis of the report, said that approval of development projects in protected areas despite the report could amount to contempt of court. "It appears the government has suppressed the report to give clearance to highway projects and the controversial pumped storage project in the Sharavathi Lion Tailed Macaque Wildlife Sanctuary. It is unfortunate that the government has ignored it and constituted yet another committee to write another report," he said.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) Meenakshi Negi, who heads the new committee set up by the government to prepare a carrying capacity assessment, said that the panel is working to synthesise findings from multiple studies. "We have found several studies examining different aspects of carrying capacity. We are collating these and also going beyond them to look at the fundamentals," she said. One of the key aspects under consideration, she added, is human development. "It helps conservation if we integrate people with the efforts to protect ecology. Conservation efforts are strengthened when people are integrated into the process of protecting ecology," she said.

Apart from highlighting the importance of the Western Ghats for the overall development of Karnataka, the 2018 report placed emphasis on flagship species, wildlife corridors, rainfall characteristics, and rare and endemic species among others. Subash Chandran said that the high level of endemism further strengthens the case for leaving protected areas untouched.

More projects

The lack of acknowledgement has paved the way for proposals like the Aghanashini-Vedavathi river diversion project, even though a carrying capacity study of Uttara Kannada district by Prof T V Ramachandra of the Indian Institute of Science warns that such projects could spell ecological disaster. The study advocates "ecologically integrated clustering for development", a model that supports local populations while protecting ecosystems.

Experts note that this approach is feasible when agencies adopt a 'systems approach' to carrying capacity assessments, moving beyond a focus solely on keystone species like tigers and elephants. "We need to go beyond the linear approach where the report's aspect is limited to being a gate keeper. A systems approach which accommodates the dynamic and complex interactions of various elements and accommodates planning on a larger time scale is important," said H S Sudhira of Gubbi Labs, a research collective specialising in sustainable ecosystems.

B K Singh, former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, stressed the urgent need for accountability in the governance of the Western Ghats. "Accountability in governance is as important as scientific studies. Major violations like the illegal submergence of (700 acre) forest by Lakya dam in Kudremukh have gone unpunished. This shows that those who commit such violations are not held to account. That has to change," he said.

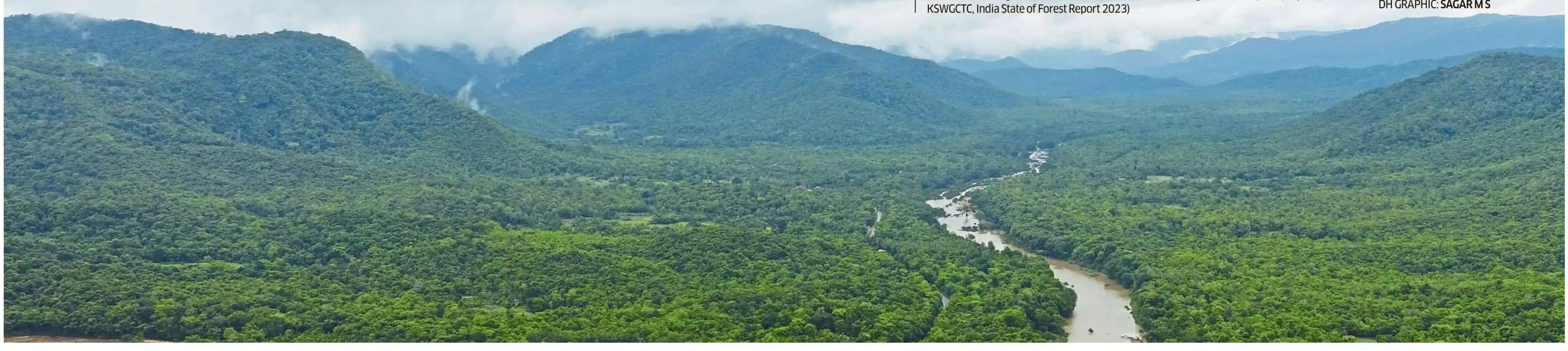
Without urgent action, both scientific guidance and local livelihoods risk being drowned out by unchecked development, leaving the Western Ghats' unique biodiversity and fragile ecosystems in peril.

> It appears that the government has suppressed the 2018 report to give clearance to highway projects and the pumped storage project in the Sharavathi Lion Tailed Macaque Wildlife Sanctuary. It is unfortunate that the government has ignored it and constituted yet another committee to write another report.
>
> **M D Subash Chandran**

MoEF committee issues warnings

- Overall landscapes are being fragmented as numerous projects are approved without any overarching limits. No minimum distance between projects is specified, exacerbating this serious problem
- In many stretches of streams, tributaries and rivers in the region, water flow has already changed or is likely to change, potentially disrupting hydrology, fish migration, aquatic life and wildlife movement through these valleys
- Even after the construction of micro-hydel projects is over, these projects do involve routine maintenance work, use of roads etc. This is likely to have a significant ecological impact
- Erosion or damage is likely to take place because of power evacuation lines, considering the heavy rainfall (about 5000 mm/year), the steep terrain and fragile geological formations in which these projects are located
- Hydropower projects with a capacity below 25 MW currently enjoy an exemption from environmental clearance, a practice that is undesirable given their potential impacts on the Western Ghats

(*INSPECTION REPORT FROM NOVEMBER 2009 BY COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY MOEF AS PER SC ORDERS)



J&K cricket, from Page 1

In J&K's triumph, sports achieved what politicians failed to do for generations

Paras Dogra, Jammu and Kashmir's captain who led his team to the first Ranji Trophy title, plays a shot in the final match against Karnataka.

The 'Crown of India' cannot languish or be continuously diminished. Its trajectory is perhaps the most important test of the mellifluous, foundational and constitutional idea of India. J&K is home to multiple faiths such as Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism and diverse ethnic and cultural communities including Kashmiris, Dogras, Ladakhis, Gujjars, Bakarwals, Baltis and Dards, and a rich tapestry of languages.

A fleeting sliver of cheer emerged when the till-now minnows of cricket, the J&K team, stunned everyone by winning their first-ever Ranji Trophy. It was not just about the victory, it was about restoring belief and creating something far greater than the scorecard. They created hope. This hope speaks to the success of unity-in-diversity embedded in the 'Idea of India', and its relevance in the wounded land of J&K. This win belongs emotionally to all the diverse communities of J&K. Until recently, many among these communities had felt overlooked, dismissed or forgotten. Shared joy and collective celebrations erupted from Sopore and Doda to Jammu to Poonch, cutting across generations of divides. Above all, the pride in this improbable sporting triumph was not just about belonging to the Kashmir Valley or the Jammu plains, but about a shared and composite identity of J&K. In that moment, sport achieved what politicians had failed to do for generations.

There was a surreal confluence of Dogri and Kashmiri fervour from an eclectically mixed crowd of J&K supporters who cheered "*Ek, do, teen, chaar....asi zyun vaarkaar*" (We have won, we have won a decisive victory). Players with previously unheard-of names such as Auqib Nabi, Vivrant Sharma, Yawer Hassan, Kawalpreet Singh, among others and led by the veteran warhorse, Paras Dogra, carried J&K to victory. In that triumph, by extension, the 'Idea of India' itself seemed to win.

Display of dominance

Purely as a cricketing team, J&K's triumph was no fluke. They repeated the David-versus-Goliath story across several matches, defeating cricketing heavyweights such as Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and finally Karnataka. The J&K team's performance in the final was a commanding and cohesive display of dominance on Karnataka's home turf. The Karnataka side, boasting India-capped players such as KL Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Devdutt Padikkal and Karun Nair could not halt the J&K juggernaut, as they crushed the illustrious hosts by 291 runs on the strength of their first-innings lead. The belief in the J&K camp was so strong that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah flew late night to Hubballi as the team stood on the brink of victory.

The J&K cricket team's victory was so special and wholesome that even within the fractured politics of the region, the outpouring of emotion temporarily put the long-standing differences on the backburner. Not only Omar Abdullah, but also Mehbooba Mufti, Sunil Sharma (leader of opposition and BJP), Sajad Lone, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and even the separatist, Engineer Rashid, shared in the joy of J&K's finest hour in sports.

This victory offers a much-needed moment of societal reconciliation, pointing towards the possibilities of unity and inspiration, where hope becomes natural. Legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar captured the moment philosophically, "The Kashmir willows have been part of many champions' kits. To see Jammu & Kashmir's journey, from being an enabler of champions to becoming champions themselves, is beautiful."

For too long, the waters of the Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Tawi have silently carried the weight of blood, bearing witness of betrayals, conflict, hate and human suffering. This remarkable sporting victory can act as a catalyst for change, offering emotional closure and a shared sense of pride.

The collective catharsis born from the success J&K's young cricketers stands in refreshing contrast to the fear-mongering, exclusivism, majoritarianism and the 'manufactured divides' often propagated by politicians. In their victory lies a reminder that shared achievements can unite where rhetoric often divides.

(Lt Gen Bhopinder Singh (Retd) is former Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands & Puducherry)

₹913 Non-subsidised 14.2kg cylinder | ₹613 Price for Ujwala beneficiary | ₹1,883 Commercial cylinder | Spike in global energy prices pushes cost of 14.2-kg cylinder to over **Rs 1,050** | This means despite the rate hike, oil marketing companies will suffer losses on domestic LPG

LPG prices hiked amid Gulf conflict

Domestic cylinder to be costlier by Rs 60, commercial by Rs 114.5 as global prices shoot up

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Oil marketing companies hiked cooking gas prices from Saturday as energy costs jumped in international markets amid escalating conflict in West Asia.

Price of an LPG cylinder for domestic use has been hiked by Rs 60 while a commercial cylinder has become costlier by Rs 114.5 each.

In Delhi, the price of a non-subsidised 14.2 kilogram LPG cylinder has been increased from Rs 853 to Rs 913. The new rates for LPG cylinders in Mumbai is Rs 912.50; in Kolkata Rs 939 and Chennai Rs 928.50, as per details released by the Indian Oil Corporation.

Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), diesel and petrol prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local sales tax or value-added tax (VAT). LPG price was last hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder in April 2025.

Beneficiaries of Ujjwala Yojana will also have to bear the same amount of price increase. Over 10 crore households get Rs 300 per cylinder subsidy on up to 9 refills in a year. A 14.2 kg LPG cylinder will now cost Rs 613 to Ujjwala beneficiaries in Delhi.

Commercial LPG cylinder price has been increased by Rs 114.5 to Rs 1,883 in Delhi. A commercial LPG cylinder, which is used by businesses such as hotels and restaurants, contains 19 kg of net gas.

According to government sources, the spike in global energy prices has pushed up the cost of a 14.2-kg cylinder to over Rs 1,050. This means despite the rate hike, oil marketing companies will suffer losses on domestic LPG supplies.

Meanwhile, the government has directed oil marketing companies to ramp up LPG production in the country. The government has invoked emergency power under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to ramp up production.

▸ LPG, Page 6

Trump's remark puts Cuba on edge, Page 9

People queue up to receive cooking gas cylinders in Ranchi, Jharkhand, on Saturday. PTI

Hotel food could become expensive

The LPG rate hike could result in an increase in the price of hotel food. According to hoteliers in Bengaluru, the price of a 19 kg commercial cylinder has gone up by Rs 115 and in addition to increase in price, gas companies have also temporarily cancelled the Rs 150 discount they used to offer before the conflict.

Iran prez apologises for strikes on neighbours

DUBAI, AP: Iran's president apologised on Saturday for attacks on the regional countries even as its missiles and drones flew toward Gulf Arab states, indicating that Tehran's political leadership could not exercise full command over Iran's armed forces. He also rejected US President Donald Trump's repeated demands for surrender.

President Masoud Pezeshkian is a member of the tripartite leadership council overseeing Iran since the conflict began on February 28.

"I should apologise to the neighbouring countries that were attacked by Iran, on my own behalf," the president said. "From now on, they should not attack neighbouring countries or fire missiles at them, unless we are attacked by those countries. I think we should solve this through diplomacy."

The message, seemingly filmed in a hurry without professional equipment, again underlined the limited powers being exercised by theocracy's leaders over its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

▸ Iran, Page 6

K'taka bleeds money to fill Centre's fund gaps

Extra aid to frontline workers costs state Rs 1,917 cr annually

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka is spending Rs 1,917 crore annually to provide additional financial assistance, or a top-up, to frontline workers because the Union government has not hiked its contribution to their honorariums for years, a finance department report has said.

This is adding to the "strain" in the Centre-state ties, according to the Medium Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP) 2026-30 report.

The state and the Union governments jointly pay honorariums to Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), Anganwadi workers and mid-day meal cooks.

"Central contributions towards these honorariums have remained unchanged for extended periods despite rising living costs and expanded responsibilities," the MTFP said. "The lack of periodic revision of unit costs has led to a growing incidence of state having to increase funding for centrally sponsored schemes through a state top-up, particularly in respect of honorariums and incentives for frontline workers," it said.

The state government pointed out that Anganwadi workers currently get Rs 12,000 per month. Of this, Rs 9,300 comes from the state and only Rs 2,700 from the Centre.

"ASHA workers receive Rs 8,000 per month, comprising Rs 2,000 under the National Health Mission and Rs 6,000 from the state. Similarly, cooks and helpers under the mid-day meal scheme receive Rs 600 per month from the Centre, while the state contributes Rs 4,100," the MTFP said.

Karnataka, which is already confronting the Union government over the scrapping of MGNREGA, also complained about "the limited extent of Central cost-sharing in key pension schemes". While the Centre supports 14.14 lakh beneficiaries in Karnataka under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), the state government covers an additional 80.31 lakh beneficiaries under its own schemes.

▸ Fund gaps, Page 6A

State's burden

Anganwadi workers get Rs 12,000 a month
₹9,300 from state | ₹2,700 from Centre

ASHA workers receive Rs 8,000 a month
₹6,000 from state | ₹2,000 under NHM*
* National Health Mission

Cooks and helpers under the mid-day meal scheme
₹600 per month from Centre | ₹4,100 Sate contributes

Delays and shortfalls in the release of Central funds under centrally-sponsored schemes have imposed significant cash-flow pressures on the state

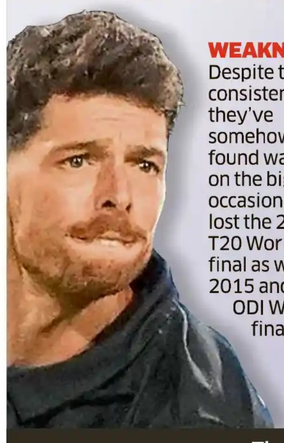
Medium term fiscal plan

INDIA EYE THIRD TITLE
New Zealand look to cross final hurdle

A confident India and a canny Kiwis lock horns in the final of the T20 World Cup today in Ahmedabad. A look at the two sides' strengths & weaknesses, and conditions

NEW ZEALAND

STRENGTHS
NZ's success is built on strong team work and the never-say-die attitude. This World Cup has been no different with various characters chipping in.



WEAKNESSES
Despite their consistency, they've somehow been found wanting on the big occasion. They lost the 2021 T20 World Cup final as well the 2015 and 2019 ODI World Cup finals.

INDIA

STRENGTHS
Batting is India's strength. Following early tournament wobbles that prompted a rejig in the batting order, the Indians have come out all guns blazing in the last three outings, raking up two 250-plus totals.

WEAKNESSES
Although they have a ace - Jasprit Bumrah - in the pace pack, the rest of the bowling has been leaking runs. When the pitch is flat and opposition batters go berserk, they often look clueless.

WEATHER — The temperature will peak at 37°C but it should get milder by the time the game starts

India vs NZ in T20 World Cup

Year	Venue	Result
2007	Johannesburg	NZ won by 10 runs
2016	Nagpur	NZ won by 47 runs
2021	Dubai	NZ won by 8 wkts

PITCH
Given it's a final, the surface should be another belter like the ones in semis. The dew should make batting much easier while chasing

LIVE
Star Sports & Jiohotstar @ 7.00 pm

Compiled by Sidney Kiran

Prez upset over venue, PM slams Mamata; Didi: Don't do politics

KOLKATA, DHNS

Droupadi Murmu

Mamata Banerjee

As President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday expressed displeasure over the shifting of the venue of a tribal community event attended by her in West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the BJP in accusing the state's Trinamool Congress government of insulting the first citizen of the nation.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, however, hit back, alleging that the BJP had used the office of the President to run a campaign against her government ahead of the Assembly polls.

The TMC supremo also wondered whether the public expression of displeasure by the President was an attempt by the BJP to set the stage for the imposition of central rule in the state.

"I have respect for you, President Madam. But please do not play politics during elections as per the BJP's advice," Mamata said.

Earlier, Murmu referred to Mamata as her "younger sister" but expressed her displeasure over the absence of the CM or any other state minister during her visit to the International Santhal Conference held at Gosaipur, North Bengal. The event was originally scheduled to be held in Darjeeling.

"It would have been better had the programme been held there (at the original venue). That venue had enough space to accommodate a large number of people," Murmu said, addressing people at the new venue. She went on to suggest that the state government possibly had little interest in tribal welfare.

Modi highlighted the tribal identity of Murmu while criticising the TMC. "The anguish expressed by Rashtrapati Ji, who herself hails from a tribal community, has caused immense sadness in the minds of the people," he posted on X.

▸ Murmu-Mamata, Page 6B

TMC to back motion against Birla

Trinamool Congress MPs will support the Opposition motion seeking the removal of Om Birla as Lok Sabha Speaker on the directions of party chief Mamata Banerjee. The decision comes as a relief for the Congress, the principal mover behind the notice.

Details on Page 8

India pledges support as Nepal set to be led by VTU alumnus

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Balendra Shah used the 'F' word for both India and China in a late-night social media post in November 2025. But the Rastriya Swatantra Party, which he led to a landslide victory in the just-concluded Pratinidhi Sabha elections in Nepal, has promised to strive for transforming the tiny Himalayan nation into a "vibrant bridge" between the two Asian giants.

Shah beat KP Sharma Oli by around 50,000 votes in the Jhapa 5 constituency, the pocket-borough of the former prime minister. Oli's party, CPN-UML, has so far won only three of the total 165 Pratinidhi Sabha seats to be filled by direct election, while the RSP won in 61 constituencies and was on track to win in 61 more, according to the latest reports, although the results would be officially declared next week.

With Shah, popularly known as Balen, set to take the helm of the new government in Kathmandu, New Delhi is cautiously watching the meteoric rise of the 35-year-old rapper-turned-politician.

Shah is an alumnus of the Visvesvaraya Technological University in Karnataka.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the people and the government of Nepal on the peaceful conduct of polls. He promised that India would remain steadfast in its commitment to working closely with the people and the new government of Nepal.

▸ Nepal, Page 6B

RSP leader Balendra Shah shows his victory certificate on Saturday. PTI

Will present 2 more budgets if high command gives chance: CM

MYSURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said he can continue in power for the rest of the term and present two more budgets, if the Congress high command gives him an opportunity.

"I have presented 17 budgets, the most in the state. Breaking records is not important. If people give opportunities, I can present more budgets. People of Karnataka want me to be in power for the rest of the term. But the high command's decision is final. If they want me to continue, I will do it. I have confidence in the high command," he asserted

He was interacting with reporters at Pillahalli helipad of Varuna hobli, Mysuru taluk on Saturday.

Siddaramaiah said, "This budget is an inclusive one for all classes and not focused on any specific class."

130 Maoists surrender in Telangana

HYDERABAD, DHNS: In a major mass surrender, the first of its scale in recent times in Telangana, at least 130 Maoists laid down their arms before Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday in Hyderabad and joined the mainstream.

The 130 Maoists handed over 124 sophisticated weapons at the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in the chief minister's presence. As part of the process, they surrendered 5,205 rounds of live ammunition across various calibres.

Details on Page 7

Safe Chits for Secured Life

MSIL Chits

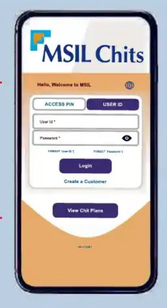
Walk-in Interview for the post of Branch Manager

Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL), a Government of Karnataka Undertaking, is involved in chit fund business for the past 20 years. At present the Company has 27 Chit Fund branches across the State and in the near future is planning to open branches at all major cities.

Experienced retired professionals of prestigious Banks / Financial Institutions / Insurance Companies who are willing to work as **Branch Managers** in these Chit Fund branches on contract basis for a fixed tenure are invited for a Walk-in Interview.

Date of Walk-in Interview: 10th & 11th March, 2026
Time: 11.00 AM to 1.30 PM and 2.30 PM to 5.30 PM
Venue: Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL)
Head Office, # 36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru – 560 052

Trusted Government Company



Those who cannot attend the Walk-in Interview on the above mentioned dates can contact
Office of The Chief Administrative Officer,
Mysore Sales International Limited,
36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru – 560 052.
or **e-mail to: cao.msilho@gmail.com**

QUALITY DRIVE

Agency fights spurious seed scourge

DH SPECIAL

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

For a farmer, the difference between a bumper harvest and a season of ruin often lies in a single factor, the quality of the seed. In Karnataka, the job of ensuring this quality is on the Karnataka State Seed and Organic Certification Agency (KSSOCA). In the 2024-25 season, KSSOCA registered 75,464 hectares of land and certified over 11.95 lakh quintals of seeds.

Established in 1974, the Hebbal-headquartered agency has evolved from a traditional seed-vetting body into a multi-faceted organisation.

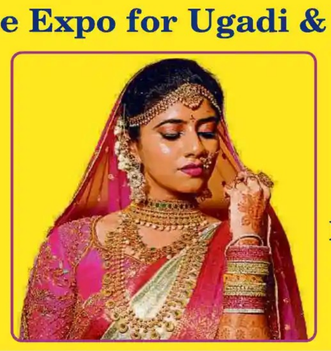
Chairperson (KSSOCA) Lavanya Ballal Jain told *DH*: "A good quality seed should possess high percent of germination, vigour, genetic and physical purity and should be free from seed-borne diseases and insect damage."

▸ Seeds, Page 6B

To ensure high seed quality, certification is necessary for quality control of seed multiplication and production

Lavanya Ballal Jain
Chairperson, KSSOCA

The Touch of Silk — The Grace of Handlooms!
You are Invited to
India's Biggest & Most Trusted Natural Fibers Products
INDIAN SILK GALLERY EXPO
An Exhibition cum Sale of 100% Handloom Products for
Exclusive Expo for Ugadi & Weddings



LAST DAY ONLY
Upto 8th March 2026
10.30 AM to 8.00 PM

Venue :
CHITRAKALA PARISHATH
Kumara Krupa Road
Near The Lalit Hotel,
Seshadripuram,
Bengaluru - 560001

Exclusive Collection of Banarasi | West Bengal Boutique Items | Tassar Kantha & Printed | Chanderi / Maheshwari | Kota | Rajkot Patola | Pochampally Ikkat | Bengaluru Pure Crape Silks | Bihar & Jharkhand Tassar Dress Materials | Gadwal | Kalamkari | Kanchipuram | Paithani Sarees | Venkatagiri /Uppada Jamdhani Sarees and Cotton Dress Materials | Bed linens | Jewellery

Contact : 9121535337 or 9000346337 — info@indiansilkgallery.com
Sponsored by Development Commissioner Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India

HARSH REALITIES Basic amenities inadequate despite growing representation in the force

Long hours, toilet access big concerns for women cops

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL & PUSHKAR V
BENGALURU, DHNS

We were at the 112 police helpline call centre on Infantry Road when a call came in on one of the lines. It was a suicide attempt. The moment was startling. But 29-year-old sub-inspector Swathi (name changed) was unfazed.

"I have seen a fair share of suicides, rape cases, POCSO cases and domestic abuse while working at other stations," said Swathi, who has been in the force for seven years. Swathi is one of about 3,000 women police officers in Bengaluru.

The number of women officers has grown exponentially in the last three decades, noted Seemant Kumar Singh, Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru City. Out of a 25,000-strong police force, 5,000 make up the reserve police. The rest make up the civil police, under which are law and order, crime, traffic and others. The aim is to reserve 33% of seats for women. For now, the number of positions for women goes up by 3–5% every year, he added.

Seemant Kumar Singh

It was in the mid-'90s that women started entering the force. Held back by lack of access to toilets at stations and unsafe work conditions, and with no transport of their own, they had a seemingly insurmountable task of upholding the law. Three decades on, things have changed drastically, but some issues remain, said women officers who spoke to *DH* on Sunday.

Long hours

The women officers attend to all women-related and sensitive cases, sometimes returning to the station after completing a full day of work when a new complaint comes in, said Amrita (name changed), a sub-inspector with five years of experience.

As part of their training, women police officers are taught to handle two-wheelers and four-wheelers. They are also trained to respond to real-time situations, especially those that come in through the 112 helpline. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

"Most of these cases come in after 8 pm or on weekends. Typically it is domestic abuse or a brawl between an inebriated couple," she explained. Being on stand-by at all hours is challenging. She hopes the issue can be resolved by hiring more female staff.

For the tougher, more serious cases, male officers are preferred, said another officer. "We are ready for any challenge, whether it is double murder, theft, missing person cases, protests or riots," she said, adding that gender awareness programmes within the department have helped. "But we still have a long way to go."

For instance, women hesitate to make use of the menstrual leave policy because they are uncomfortable talking about menstruation to male superiors.

An officer, who is currently part of the Hoysala fleet, pointed out that several women step away from policing after becoming mothers.

While the commissioner's office is equipped with a daycare facility for kids, it would make a huge difference to women officers if there was at least one crèche in every division, Swathi stated.

Taking the wheel

As part of their training, women are taught to handle two-wheelers and four-wheelers. Singh shared that the department switched to lighter bikes like Activa and Scooty, which are easier for women to handle. "Earlier, there was a problem with heavy bikes, so we invested in bikes with lower cubic capacity (cc). However, women are trained to ride heavier bikes too," he said. During the monthly Commissioner's Parade, held on the first Friday of the month, Singh was escorted by women riding 350cc bikes to mark International Women's Day.

In November 2023, the police installed Neravu Kendras, cabin-like structures equipped with a bed, toilet, first-aid kit and running water, at 60 locations across the city. DH PHOTO/KISHORE KUMAR BOLAR

Neravu Kendra

In November 2023, the police installed Neravu Kendras, cabin-like structures equipped with a bed, toilet, first-aid kit and running water, at 60 locations across the city. They are manned by women officers and are meant to help female citizens in distress. Singh shared that some of these Kendras were located in places without a large footfall and hence were not being used to their full potential. They plan to move some of the cabins to areas that are more crowded.

Toilet access

Between 2007 and 2008, woman police constable Uma (name changed) was posted at the V V Puram police station. "The station had a men's toilet. But nothing for women. I would go to a nearby church, which had a women's toilet, to relieve myself," she recalled.

While most stations now have restroom facilities for women, they still face challenges while in the field.

"Most days, we are outdoors for 8–10 hours. Finding a toilet is not easy. We often end up going to nearby shops or restaurants," Amrita shared.

Three months ago, the department launched three mobile toilets donated by an NGO. The toilets, made at a cost of Rs 15 lakh, follow three specific routes: Thanisandra, Adugodi and Mysuru Road, and have 91 halting points.

Traffic cops reduce water intake to avoid loo breaks

ABHINAYA M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Standing for long hours, prolonged exposure to pollution and constant public interaction already make traffic duty physically demanding. The lack of reliable sanitation facilities adds another layer of stress, particularly for women. Rajeshwari, a traffic police constable at Upparpete Police Station, shared, "Sometimes we use public toilets in the vicinity. At times, we request residents to allow us to use their toilets. If they are kind enough, they permit us. But not everyone agrees." Public restrooms are often poorly maintained and raise concerns about hygiene and safety.

Others, like Savithri, also posted at the Upparpete station, have reduced their water intake during the day to avoid having to use the toilet.

The challenge intensifies during menstruation. "Standing for long hours without proper facilities causes significant discomfort," Rajeshwari said.

Eating out may get costlier as LPG, power costs rise

Hoteliers cite rising input costs amid West Asia conflict

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The unrest in West Asia has resulted in an increase in LPG cylinder prices, and this could in turn increase the price of food items at hotels.

According to hoteliers in Bengaluru, the price of a 19 kg commercial LPG cylinder has gone up by Rs 115. The price rose from Rs 1,844 on March 1 to Rs 1,959 on March 7. In addition, oil companies also withdrew the Rs 150 discount that had earlier been offered on commercial cylinders from March 1. As a result, hoteliers say the effective increase in the price of a cylinder has been significantly higher.

"In total, the price of one cylinder has gone up by as much as Rs 265. This is a huge burden on hoteliers. The government should have waited for some time before increasing the prices," said P C Rao from the Bruhat Bangalore Hotels Association (BBHA).

The increase in LPG prices, along with the recent increase in power tariff for commercial establishments and the additional burden of paying for waste disposal, has pushed hoteliers beyond their limits, Rao said.

"The power tariff increased by as much as Re 1 per unit owing to the recent revision. The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has also asked us to pay Rs 12 per kg of waste generated. All of these are increasing our operational costs," he said.

The increased burden has pushed hoteliers to consider increasing the prices of food items. They have decided to wait and watch the developments over the next two days.

"If the situation continues for the next two days, a decision will be taken. We have been holding back on taking a decision to increase prices since we do not want to burden our consumers. However, a price hike may be inevitable given that all the costs have increased and it is difficult for us to operate at the existing costs," Rao added.

While prices of most food items are expected to go up, the exact increase will be determined by individual hoteliers.

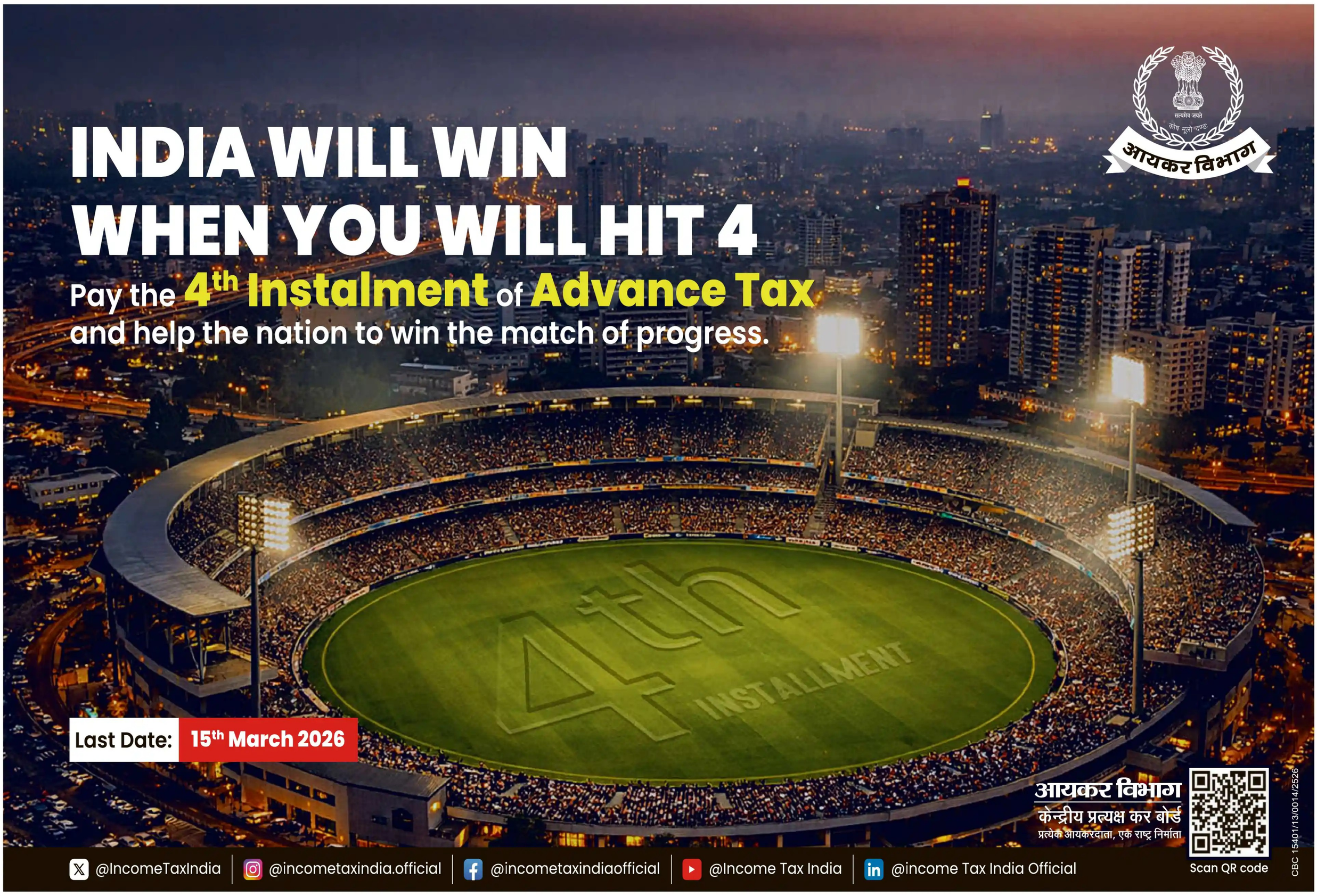
75 properties in RR Nagar zone face auction over tax dues

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC) will auction 75 properties in the Rajarajeshwari Nagar zone on March 10. The owners have failed to pay their property tax dues, with the total pending amount accumulating to Rs 2.19 crore.

The auction will be held at the office of the Joint Commissioner, 18th Cross, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, at 11 am.

According to the corporation, the owners of these properties failed to pay property tax even after multiple notices were sent. The corporation has also served proclamation notices to the property owners.

Similar auctions were earlier held on February 17, February 21 and March 6.



Transport dept organises Safe-A-Thon to promote road safety

BENGALURU, DHNS

Around 13,000 citizens took part in the 5K Safe-A-Thon that began at Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday.
PHOTO: TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

The Transport Department organised a 5K Safe-A-Thon on Saturday to promote road safety in the city.

The initiative called on citizens to complete the 5 km either by walking, running, or cycling, starting from Kanteerava Stadium. About 13,000 citizens from varied backgrounds and age groups took part in the event.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy inaugurated the event and emphasised the importance of remaining physically active. "Physical activity provides good health, mental peace and tranquillity. If the mind is calm, we can be careful while driving and travelling. This can help improve road safety," he said.

Urging the public to remain calm on the road, he added, "Instead of blaming others for accidents and road safety, we should be careful. In a big city like Bengaluru, most accidents occur due to haste and hustle. However, if we leave a little early, there is no question of haste."

The event was also attended by Transport Commissioner Yogeesh A M, City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, and cricketer Sunil Joshi.

Officials told to prepare for monsoon during inspection

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mahalakshmi Layout MLA Gopalaiah, along with Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC) Commissioner Rajendra K V, inspected the ongoing works in his constituency and directed officials to be prepared for the monsoon. Rajendra directed officials to take up any required work immediately to ensure that the public is not inconvenienced during the rainy season.

Officials were also asked to ensure proper maintenance of streetlights and parks in the constituency.

Removal of dangerous trees and elimination of black spots were among the other issues discussed.

GBA to issue QR-coded ID cards to street vendors

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will start issuing QR-coded ID cards to street vendors in Bengaluru.

GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao on Saturday instructed officials to complete the distribution of these cards by the end of March.

"Identity cards containing complete details of street vendors should be printed and distributed. The cards should be designed similar to the voter identity card, containing only essential information on the card, while the remaining detailed information should be made accessible through the QR code," Rao said.

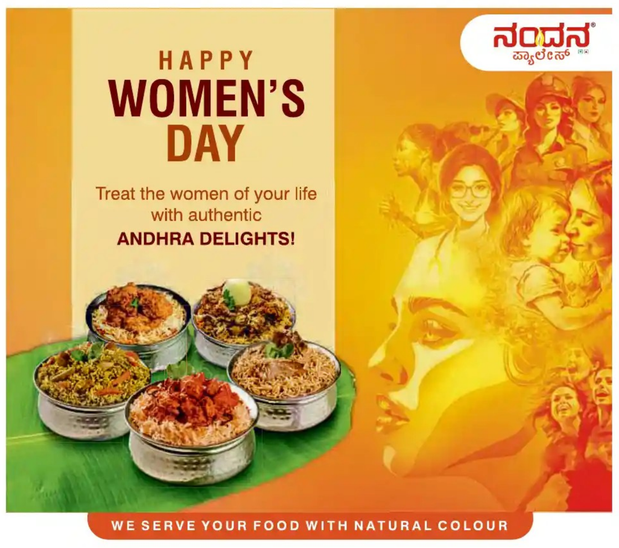
He also directed officials to maintain a uniform format across the five city corporations.

GBA Special Commissioner (Welfare) Suralkar Vikas Kishore said that 27,585 street vendors have been identified within the GBA limits and their complete information is available in the software system.

"We have already started distributing identity cards. However, street vendors had approached the High Court stating that the cards distributed did not contain accurate information. The court subsequently directed authorities to issue identity cards containing complete details. Accordingly, a new format of identity cards has now been prepared and instructions have been given to print and distribute the same format across all five city corporations," Kishore said.

The GBA will also distribute a total of 3,236 vehicles, including electric vegetable carts, electric fruit carts, electric ice cream carts, electric fast-food carts and three-wheelers, to street vendors at a subsidised price.

Officials were also instructed to immediately finalise and submit the list of beneficiaries under various welfare programmes such as e-vending vehicles, sewing machines, electric two-wheelers for pourakarmikas/working women, 14 types of skill training programmes, electric wheelchairs, the Sarathi scheme, fee reimbursement for students, the Onti Mane scheme and the Amrutha Mahotsava scheme.



nandhana PALACE
Legendary Andhra Restaurant Chain
BENGALURU: 080 46 13 11 11
CHENNAI: +91 89255 27979
@nandhanapalace
www.nandhanarestaurants.com
OUR WIDE BRANCHES ACROSS BENGALURU AND CHENNAI
RESTAURANTS | HOTELS | BANQUETS | TAKEAWAY

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA, GAURIBIDANUR, CHIKKABALLAPUR
Sericulture office Building, Gauribidanur - 561208

WALK–IN-INTERVIEW

Walk-In-Interviews will be held in the Vidyalaya premises for engaging Part-time/Contractual teachers for the Session 2026-27 as per the following schedule.

Sl.No.	Name of the Posts	Date of Interview
1	**TGT-Trained Graduate Teachers** (English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Mathematics, Science, Social Science)	**17/03/2026 (Tuesday)** Reporting time 9:00 am to 10:30am
2	**1. Primary Teachers. 3. Music Teacher (PRT). 2. Computer Instructor. 4. Yoga Instructor**	

The interested candidates may attend the walk-in-interviews directly on the date specified above along with Bio-Data and one set of testimonials/ certificates. Original certificates needs to be produced for verification.
For Bio-Data, Registration, Eligibility criteria and Salary details visit **https://gauribidanur.kvs.ac.in.**
No TA/DA will be paid to the candidates for attending the interview.

Date: 06.03.2026 **Sd/- PRINCIPAL**

DH DECCAN HERALD
Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
(Affiliated to CBSE New Delhi)
PRTC, Near Mekhri circle, JC Nagar, Bangalore-560006
Ph: 080 - 23433341

VACANCY FOR ADHOC APPOINTMENT

POST & SUBJECT

Post Graduate Teachers - Chemistry, History, Biology, Home Science and Psychology
Trained Graduate Teachers - English, Hindi, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Computer Science and Sanskrit
Primary Teachers - All subjects
Pre Primary Teachers
Co-scholastic Teachers - Dance, Yoga, Art
Special Educator
Counsellor
Supervisor Administration
IT Supervisor
Paramedics
Science Lab Attendant

Visit school website **www.apsprtc.edu.in** for Application Form, Qualification, Age Criteria and other details.

Hard copy of the application along with DD of Rs. 250/- (in favour of Army Public School, PRTC, payable at Bangalore) and attested copies of educational qualification, experience certificates should reach by post/by hand to the Principal, Army Public School, PRTC, Near Mekhri Circle, JC Nagar, Bangalore – 560 006 on or before **21 Mar 2026.** No application will be accepted after the due date.
(No TA / DA admissible)

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

International Women's Day celebration: Special issue release and seminar; inaugurated by Ma Bhairavi; issue release by H Shashidhar Shetty; felicitation of SG Sushilamma; Stree Jagruthi; Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Chamarajpet; 10.30 am

Senior Citizens' Festival: Inaugurated by R Gururajan; guests DR Ashok and S Premkumar Raja to be present; presided over by Radha S Murthy; Nightingales Medical Trust; Hudson Memorial Community Centre; 10 am

International Women's Day: Resource persons Reena Suvarna, Vidya Rakesh, Rekha Gopal, and Prasad Kumar to participate; Yuvavahini; Karnataka Government Secretariat Club, near Vidhana Soudha; 10 am

RELIGIOUS

Temple Inauguration: Opening of new Nandibasaveshwara Swamy temple; BY Vijayendra and ST Somashekar to attend; Nandibasaveshwara Swamy Temple, Elekodigehalli, near NICE Road, Magadi Road; 9 am

CULTURAL

Book Release: Launch of Giridhara Rao Havaldar's 'Koracharu', 'Neevu Nanya Sangrahakaraagi', 'Naadu Nudi Sadhakaru', and 'Chiv Chiv Gubbachi'; TR Chandrashekhar, SG Siddaramaiah, and TS Nagaraja Shetty to release; Gandhi Bhavan, Kumarakrupa Road; 11 am

Udyanadalli Udayaraga: Hindustani vocal recital by Thimmanna Bheemaraya, Abhinaya M Ramachandra, and Deepti Sudhindra; Horticulture Department; Band Stand, Cubbon Park; 7 am

Award Ceremony and Poets' Meet: Poetry session and music by Vinoda; presided over by V Mallikarjunaiah; awards to be presented to BM Komala and Sunanda Prabhudev; Sammilana; Ken School of Art, Seshadripuram; 10.30 am

Deepadharani Dance: Performance by Divya Goswami, Ramya Suraj, YK Sandhyasharma, and Rashmi Agarwal; organised by Nirantara; Nrityadarpan Academy, JP Nagar; 4 pm

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

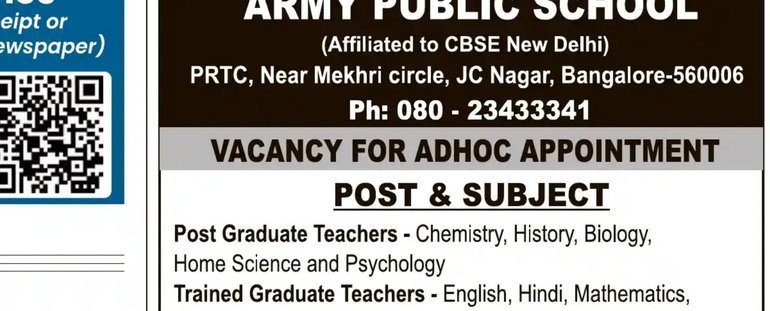
FORECAST

Mainly Clear sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	34.3°C
Minimum	21.9°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	32%
Sunset (Mar 8)	6:29 pm
Sunrise (Mar 9)	6:32 am
Moonrise	9:45 pm
Moonset	8:50 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD


JOCKEY
FACTORY SECONDS
UPTO 50% OFF*
* T & C apply
10 am to 8 pm · Open All Days · Master / Visa Card Accepted
INNERWEAR • LEISUREWEAR • ACTIVEWEAR • KIDSWEAR • SOCKS
Venues In Bangalore
Infantry Road: Safina Plaza, No.84/85-560 001
Jayanagar: Hema Chandra Kalyan Mahal, 2nd Block, (Near Ashoka Pillar) - 11
Banshankari: Sri Hari Kalyana Mantap, 30th Main, B.S.K. 3rd Stage, Near K.I.M.S. Hospital - 560085
Rajarajeshwari Nagar: Vasavi Mahal Kalyana Mantapa, Next to Reliance Digital, Ideal Homes I Phase - 560098
Vijay Nagar: Five O Gallery, 17th Cross, M.C. Road, Near Vijay Nagar Bus Stop - 560040
Rajajinagar: Raja Rajeshwari Kalyana Mantapa, 2nd Block, Next To Blue Hyunday Showroom, Dr. Rajkumar Road - 560010
Koramangala: Apoorva International, #35A, Raheja Arcade, Opp Star Box - 560095
Basavanagudi: Amolak Apparels, 7/3, 1st Floor, Opp. Karnataka Bank - 560004
Org. by: Surya Agency Pvt. Ltd.

GRAB YOUR DEALS & DISCOUNTS!
TV9 NETWORK

HOME FURNITURE EXPO

SALE • OFFERS • DISCOUNTS

LOCATE US

LAST DAY TODAY
TRIPURAVASINI PALACE GROUND
NEAR MEKHRI CIRCLE, BENGALURU

TIMING
10.00 AM TO 8.30 PM

BIGGEST SAVING SALE

• LIVING ROOM SET • DINING SET • BEDROOM SET • HOME DECOR PRODUCTS • ARTIFACTS • OUTDOOR FURNITURE
• RECLINER SOFA SETS • INDONESIA FURNITURE • CARPET & CUSHIONS • MASSAGE CHAIR • CURTAINS & MUCH MORE...

AN EVENT BY iads & events COMPLETE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

www.iadsandevents.com exhibitions_iadsnevents iadsnevents ENTRY FREE +91 93425 77908

GIRIAS THE CONSUMER DURABLE PEOPLE Since 1971
PRESENTS

BANGALORE'S BIGGEST EXPO 2026

TV9 ಕನ್ನಡ

LIFESTYLE AUTOMOBILE & FURNITURE EXPO

TODAY LAST DAY

THRIPURAVASINI, PALACE GROUNDS, BENGALURU

TV9 Kannada Lifestyle, Automobile and Furniture Expo features over 70+ stalls showcasing a diverse range of products, including Electronic ,Home Appliances, Furniture, Automobile Fashion, Home Décor, Beauty Products, Handcrafted Products and much more.
Don't miss the opportunity...

POWERED BY
TV9 NETWORK
AMPLE FREE PARKING
ENTRY FREE 10AM to 8PM
HOME FURNITURE EXPO SALE • OFFERS • DISCOUNTS
iads & events COMPLETE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Where complexities of science didn't give one a complex

Members of the public and schoolchildren take a look at a science model on display on the occasion of 'open day' at the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru on Saturday.
DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The Open Day 2026 at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) on Saturday drew thousands of curious visitors from across the state, transforming the usually quiet campus into a bustling hub for understanding science.

Among the highlights were the engaging presentations by the Centre for Brain Research and Department of Electronics Engineers, which captivated the audience with insights into the frontiers of neuroscience and technology.

From schoolchildren to research enthusiasts, crowds thronged laboratories and exhibition spaces eager to learn more about everything.

The Centre for Brain Research showcased the model of the human brain and the presenters explained each part of the brain, its functioning and how it helps in the formation of memory. The models of brains cut into two halves helped students understand it better.

Another interesting presentation by the same department was the breaking down of food. The process was explained using the model of a train and each stage of the process as a station, helping children grasp the concept better.

Hari Gopalan Rao, one of the visitors, told *DH*, "My kids are really excited to be here. The presentation of the process of breaking down food was really interesting. Now, they can understand the importance of nutritious food as they can recall easily what the presenters explained."

Joshith Rao, a 10-year-old, said, "I really liked the human brain and I am very excited to learn more about it".

The Open Day also had a dedicated kids' zone, which included quiz competitions and a few games related to science.

Sarith Rathadiya, an engineer, said, "The idea of Open Day is amazing, not every day do we get an opportunity to walk in and explore IISc. Immersive games and quizzes for kids are a great way to interest them in science".

Sumanth Avadooth, another engineer, said, "Complex concepts such as gene mutations are explained in such a way that a even five-year-old can understand".

The department of sustainable technologies had a presentation about the use of wastewater and its filtration, which raised a lot of curiosity among visitors.

Techie, senior citizens clash over pet dog at apartment in Varthur

Cross-complaints filed as police examine CCTV footage

BENGALURU, DHNS

A dispute over bringing a pet dog to the amphitheatre area of a gated apartment community in Varthur escalated into a scuffle, with a techie and a group of senior citizens filing cross-complaints against each other.

A 42-year-old software professional, Tarun Arora, alleged that he was assaulted by a group of senior citizens on March 3, when he had taken his pet dog for a morning walk inside the apartment premises.

According to his complaint, the dog was eating grass at the amphitheatre area when a group of senior citizens who were practising yoga objected to him bringing the pet there and accused him of allowing it to urinate at the spot. Arora reportedly argued that it was a common area and that there were no restrictions on bringing dogs there.

During the argument, Arora began recording the incident on his mobile phone. In a fit of rage, some members of the group allegedly slapped him, causing the phone to fall. When the argument escalated, a group of about eight senior citizens allegedly assaulted him. Arora later sought first aid at a nearby hospital and approached Varthur police to file a complaint.

A CCTV grab from the apartment complex showing the altercation.

Meanwhile, 59-year-old Shashibala and her 69-year-old husband filed a counter-complaint alleging that Arora assaulted them after they asked him to take the dog to a designated pet area and not disturb their yoga practice.

According to their complaint, when the couple questioned him about bringing the dog to the yoga area despite a separate space being available for pets, Arora allegedly grabbed the husband by the collar and assaulted him. When Shashibala intervened, she too was allegedly pushed.

A senior police officer said both cases have been registered at the Varthur police station. Officials are examining CCTV footage and videos recorded during the incident as part of the investigation, and further action would be taken against the accused.

Teacher booked after assault on 7-yr-old student

BENGALURU, DHNS: A teacher at a private school in Doddanagamangala was booked for allegedly assaulting a seven-year-old boy after he failed to answer a mathematics question on Saturday.

The incident came to light after the child's parents noticed a bruise on the side of his face and approached the Parappana Agrahara police on March 5. According to the complaint, the teacher allegedly lost her cool when the class 2 student struggled with a maths problem. She reportedly slapped the child and pinched his ear with such force that it left a visible injury on his face.

Shocked by the physical marks on their son, the parents approached the police. Following the complaint, the Parappana Agrahara police registered a case against the teacher. Police said both the parents and the teacher were summoned to the station. "Both parties later reached a compromise at the station," a senior police officer said.

City waste finds a second life in fields

About 5,000 tonnes of segregated wet waste supplied to 80 farmers across 12 villages for composting

BENGALURU, DHNS

Doddaballapura City Municipal Council (CMC) launched a City–Farmer Partnership for Solid Waste Management a year ago, and the initiative has demonstrated how urban waste streams can be transformed into productive agricultural inputs through collaboration between municipalities and farmers.

Over the past year, approximately 5,000 tonnes of segregated wet waste from the city have been supplied to 80 farmers across 12 nearby villages, enabling the production of compost and reducing dependence on chemical fertilisers.

The event was inaugurated by Ramesh B S, Project Director, District Urban Development Cell (DUDC), Bengaluru Rural District, and brought together representatives from local government, civil society and the private sector.

Dignitaries in attendance included the President and Vice President of Doddaballapura CMC, Municipal Commissioner Karthikeshwar, Pradeep Saxena, Executive Director of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), and Sujith Nagappa, Regional Head of Godrej Properties Limited.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Government of Karnataka, officials from 30 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across Tumakuru, Kolar, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural and Bengaluru Urban districts participated in the programme to learn from the implementation and outcomes of the Doddaballapura model. A highlight of the event was the sharing of on-ground experiences by participating farmers.

Vinay Kumar, a farmer from Kodigehalli, described the economic benefits of the programme. "By converting 20 tonnes of segregated wet waste into nearly 5 tonnes of compost on my farm through this initiative, I saved around Rs 20,000 in input costs this year. This initiative by Doddaballapura CMC is very beneficial for farmers and can be replicated by other ULBs."

The event concluded with the distribution of certificates to participating farmers, recognising their role in strengthening sustainable waste management practices.

Officials visit a compost pit as part of the waste-to-farm initiative.

City police crack down on public smoking, 295 fined

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a special drive conducted in the North Division, the city police registered 40 cases under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) and fined 295 persons for smoking in prohibited public places.

A senior police officer said the drive was conducted under the guidance of Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh. It was carried out from Friday evening till late night and continued into the early hours of Saturday across 13 police station limits in the North Division. Police teams conducted surprise inspections at locations where smoking is banned and took action against violators.

Officials also checked shops that had illegally displayed advertisements of cigarettes and beedis at the entrance of their establishments and booked those violating the provisions of the COTPA Act.

KAOA adequate for apartment owners, cooperative society unnecessary: HC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court has held that when the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act (KAOA) is a robust enactment to take care of the interests of apartment owners, there is no justification for the formation of a cooperative society. Justice M G Uma said this while allowing a petition filed by Sobha Limited challenging the registration by the Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Bengaluru Urban district, of the Sobha HRC Pristine Apartment Owners Co-operative Society Limited under the Karnataka Co-operative Societies Act.

"The Karnataka Co-operative Societies Act never enables the members to hold the property and to maintain and manage the undivided share and the facility. There is always a danger of the management being superseded by the government in a peculiar situation and appointment of an administrator, who is an employee appointed by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and is definitely an outsider, being put in charge," Justice Uma said.

The petitioner company said that the Deed of Declaration along with the bye-laws was filed with the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies on June 21, 2023, as required under Section 13 of KAOA, which was acknowledged. According to the petitioner, the maintenance, administration and management of common areas, amenities, equipment and facilities in the project were undertaken by forming an association of owners by executing and registering the Deed of Declaration under the name of the Association and executing Form-B as provided in KAOA.

IN THE HIGH COURT

The company contended that one T K Parasuraman, claiming to be the Chief Promoter, approached the Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies with misleading facts, suppressing material facts and not adhering to KAOA provisions, and obtained the Certificate of Registration as Sobha HRC Pristine Apartment Owners Co-operative Society Limited. The petitioner claimed that of the 395 units, only 30 to 40 were members of this registered society, and that none of the other owners gave consent to be part of it.

The court noted that the restriction on voting till completion of one year and allowing only one vote per person would defeat the object with which KAOA was enacted. The KAOA safeguards the interests of owners where there is no restriction on owning more than one apartment, and they can exercise one apartment–one vote and are entitled to vote the moment they become members of the association.

"Under the provisions of RERA, an option is given to the parties either to form an association or a society or a cooperative society or a federation under the local laws. In Karnataka, when the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act (KAOA) is the robust enactment to take care of the interests of apartment owners and when none of its provisions are repugnant to the Central legislation, i.e., RERA, and when KAOA is the special enactment enacted for the very purpose of dealing with maintenance, administration and management of the undivided interest in the common areas and facilities in residential apartments, this court does not find any justification for the formation of a cooperative society like Sobha HRC Pristine Apartment Owners Association," the court said.

The court cancelled the registration granted by the Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies in September 2023 and the February 2024 order passed by the Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Bengaluru Urban district, in appellate proceedings.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II AT BENGALURU
S.A. No. 258 of 2025
(Diary No. of 2025

BETWEEN: Sri. Bapuram Purushothama Reddy Aged about 72 Years, S/o. Sri. B.V.R. Reddy Residing at: Plot No. 279, MLA and MO's Colony, Road No. 10C, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana-500033 **Appellant/Applicant**
AND: 1. The Asst. General Manager Punjab National Bank Circle Sastra Centre, Bangalore East, First Floor, Raheja Towers, 26-27 M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001 **2. M/s. SVR Housing** A Registered Partnership Firm Having its office at Door No. 21, 33 'A' 11th Main, Jayanagar, 4th 'T' Block, Bangalore-5600041 Represented by its Managing Partner Mr. S. Sri. Harsha **3. Mr. S. Sri. Harsha** Aged about 55 Years, S/o. Sri. S. Venkataramayya **4. Mrs. S. Sujatha** Aged about 48 Years, W/o. S. Sri. Harsha Both 3 and 4 are residing at No. 14-484 A, Gandhi Road, Mandanapalli, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh-517325 **5. M/s Suraksha Ventures LLP** A limited liability partnership, Having its registered office address at: No. 13, 2nd Floor, Green Leaf Layout, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560034 Represented by its Partner **Sri. Dinesh Ramachandra Respondents**
NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993
WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Securitization Application under Section 17 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) against you to set aside the Sale Certificate dated 10.10.2023 issued by the Respondent No. 1 in favor of Respondent No. 5. The above Respondnet No. 2 to 4 are therfore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal or in person or through an advocate or through authorized agents in support of their defence to show cause withing 30 days from the date of publication or on 20.04.2026 at 10:30 AM., as to why relief's prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 4th Day of February 2026.
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II Bangalore

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II AT BENGALURU
S.A. No. 257 of 2025
(Diary No. of 2025

BETWEEN: Smt. Bapuram Visalakshi Aged about 67 Years, W/o. Sri. B.Purushothama Reddy Residing at: Plot No. 279, MLA and MO's Colony, Road No. 10C, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana-500033**Appellant/Applicant**
AND: 1. The Asst. General Manager Punjab National Bank Circle Sastra Centre, Bangalore East, First Floor, Raheja Towers, 26-27 M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001 **2. M/s. SVR Housing** A Registered Partnership Firm Having its office at Door No. 21, 33 'A' 11th Main, Jayanagar, 4th 'T' Block, Bangalore-5600041 Represented by its Managing Partner Mr. S. Sri. Harsha **3. Mr. S. Sri. Harsha** Aged about 55 Years, S/o. Sri. S. Venkataramayya **4. Mrs. S. Sujatha** Aged about 48 Years, W/o. S. Sri. Harsha Both 3 and 4 are residing at No. 14-484 A, Gandhi Road, Mandanapalli, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh-517325 **5. M/s Suraksha Ventures LLP** A limited liability partnership, Having its registered office address at: No. 13, 2nd Floor, Green Leaf Layout, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560034 Represented by its Partner **Sri. Dinesh Ramachandra Respondents**
NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993
WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Securitization Application under Section 17 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) against you to set aside the Sale Certificate dated 10.10.2023 issued by the Respondent No. 1 in favor of Respondent No. 5. The above Respondnet No. 2 to 4 are therfore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal or in person or through an advocate or through authorized agents in support of their defence to show cause withing 30 days from the date of publication or on 20.04.2026 at 10:30 AM., as to why relief's prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 4th Day of February 2026.
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II Bangalore

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 28/2026/SBC
Dated. 03.03.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Description of Work	Qty.
Tender No. L8256274A	1100 Nos.

Supply of Overhead double acting concealed door closer Device as per RCF Drg. No. MI006232 Alt d Item No. 18, certified as per EN1154.

Last date and time for submission of tender: **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 26.03.2026**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Material Manager/ Bengaluru
PUB/968/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-PROCUREMENT
Divisional Store Office Central Railway, Solapur for and on Behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms/Contractors for the following works. **01 Tender No:-** 96265076, **02 Description:-** Jointless grooved Copper Contact Wire, 107Sq.mm made out of continuous cast copper wire rods as per RDSO Specification No. TI/SPC/OHE/CW/0971 or latest. **03 Quantity:-** 17.5 KM, **04 Earnest Money (INR):-** Rs.311690.00, **Date & Time of Closing of Tender on www.ireps.gov.in:-** 30-03-2026 after 11:30., The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in.**
15 **Sr.DMM/Solapur**
Travel safely, Avoid footboard travelling

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-PROCUREMENT
Divisional Store Office Central Railway, Solapur for and on Behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms/ Contractors for the following works. **01 Tender No:-** 96265076, **02 Description:-** Jointless grooved Copper Contact Wire, 107Sq.mm made out of continuous cast copper wire rods as per RDSO Specification No. TI/SPC/OHE/CW/0971 or latest. **03 Quantity:-** 17.5 KM, **04 Earnest Money (INR):-** Rs.311690.00, **Date & Time of Closing of Tender on www.ireps.gov.in:-** 30-03-2026 after 11:30., The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in.**
15 **Sr.DMM/Solapur**
Travel safely, Avoid footboard travelling

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE No. B/TRD.2025-26/46 Dt: 02.03.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Item of work	Approx. value
Provision of second	₹1,55,61,104.00/-

transformer bay at Yelahanka-Talli Saidasahu. **Period of Completion:** 6 Months

Last date and time for submission of tender: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 24.03.2026**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD/ Bengaluru
PUB/963/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, सरायकेला
Email Id- rdsd.skela@gmail.com
:: निविदा स्थगित पत्र ::
इस कार्यालय के द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा सूचना (e-Procurement) notice no. RDD/SD/SKELLA/08/2025-26 को अपरिहार्य कारण से रद्ध किया जाता है। जिसका PR 374131 Rural Development(25-26):D है।
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, सरायकेला
PR 374314 (Rural Development) 25-26 (D)

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालयत्र
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, चतरा।
ई0 प्रोक्योरमेंट नोटिस सं0 –12/ 2025-26 (1st Call)
Short Tender Ref. No.: RCD/Chatra/173/2025-26
Date: 06.03.2026

1.	कार्य का नामः	IRQP Work of Hunterganj – Pandeypura- Pratappur (MDR-246) Road (कुल लम्बाई– 29.75 कि0मी0) का राईडिंग क्वालिटी में सुधार (Improvement of Riding Quality) कार्य।
2.	प्राक्कलित राशि :	रू0 17,63,31,074=00 (रू0 सत्रह करोड़ तीरसठ लाख एकतीस हजार चौहतर रूपये)
3.	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि :	06 (छः) माह
4.	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि /समय	25.03.2026 12.00 बजे दोपहर तक
5.	प्री बिड मिटिंग : तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	22.03.2026 (12.00 बजे दोपहर तक) मुख्य अभियंता (या0) का कार्यालय पथ निर्माण विभाग, इंजिनीयरिंग हास्टल नं0–2, धुर्वा, राँची।
6.	बेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :	10.03.2026 10.30 बजे पूर्वाह्न
7.	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता :	कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, चतरा।
8.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि	27.03.2026
9.	ई0 प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या :	06541-224540
10.	ई0 प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन संख्या :	0651-2401010

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in देखें। नोट : निविदा की राशि घट – बढ़ सकती है।
कार्यपालक अभियंता
प0नि0वि0, पथ प्रमण्डल, चतरा।
PR.NO.374335 Road(25-26):D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल,राँची
ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना
टेन्डररेफरेंन्स नं0–प0नि0वि0/राँची–52/2025–26
दिनांकः–05.03.2026

1.	कार्य का नाम	IRQP Work of (i) Daladali chowk (on Ranchi Ring Road)-Prem nagar (on NH-23), (ii) Hazi Chowk to Brambe road and (iii) BijuliaChowk-Mahadeo Tangra road(कुल लम्बाई–23.44 कि0मी0) कार्यवर्ष 2025–26
2.	प्राक्कलित राशि (रू0 लाख में)	रू0 1334.52 लाख (रूपये तेरह करोड चौतिस लाख बावन हजार) मात्र।
3.	अग्रधन की राशि (रू0 लाख में)	रू0 13.35 लाख (रूपये तेरह लाख पैतीस हजार) मात्र।
4.	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	06 (छः) माह
5.	वेबसाईड पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	10.03.2026 10.30 बजे पूर्वाह्न
6.	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि/ समय	30.03.2026 12.00 बजे दोपहर तक
7.	निविदा खोलने तिथि/ समय	01.04.2026 12.30 बजे
8.	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल राँची, मोहराबादी, राँची–834008.
9.	प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या	0651–2361018
10.	ई–प्रोक्योरमेंटसेल का हेल्पलाईनसंख्या	0651–2401010

- प्राक्कलित राशि एवं अग्रधन की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है, जिसे *Tender Online Upload* में देखा जासकता है, एवं किसी भी प्रकार का बदलाव *http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in* पर देखा जा सकताहै।
- नियम एवं शर्ते के लिए वेबसाईट *http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in* पर देखें।

PR 374216 Road Construction Dept Road Division Ranchi(25-26).D
कार्यपालक अभियंता
पथ निर्माण विभाग,
पथ प्रमंडल,राँची

JHARKHAND STATE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY
(CIN: U85500JH2025NPL024352)
Regd. Office: - 2nd Floor, JCSTI, Coordinating Building, Namkum, Ranchi 834010, Jharkhand | Email- jsfda2025@gmail.com
Letter No. JSFDA/estb-01/2025-56 **Ranchi/Dated 05.03.2026**
Recruitment Notice
The Department of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Jharkhand has established **Jharkhand State Faculty Development Academy (JSFDA)** as a Section 8 company of Companies Act 2013 under Jharkhand State Higher Education Council (JSHEC) to build the capacity of teachers, officers, staff, Academic leaders, support staffs and students of Higher and Technical Education Institutions of Jharkhand. The academy will act as a facilitator for reforms in higher education, formulation of policies and schemes, monitoring and evaluation of schemes and any other work assigned by the Department of Higher and Technical Education.
The Jharkhand State Faculty Development Academy (JSFDA) invites applications from eligible and motivated professionals to support its mission. Applications are invited for the following positions on a purely contractual basis:

Sl. No.	Designation	No. of Posts	Monthly Emolument	Minimum Qualifications and Experience
1	General Manager Finance	01	Consolidated payment of ₹1,25,000/-	CA/ICWA/MBA in Finance with minimum 7 years of post-qualification work experience in the field of accounting, financial management and management information systems.
2	Manager, Academics /Trainings /Outreach	02	Consolidated payment of ₹75,000/-	Post-Graduate in any discipline with a minimum of 3 years of experience in Training/ Placement/ Industry Linkage or similar outreach activities.
3	Manager, Administration	01	Consolidated payment of ₹75,000/-	Post-Graduate in any discipline with a minimum of 3 years of experience in management and administration, preferably at the middle management level.
4	Manager, Information Technology (IT)	01	Consolidated payment of ₹75,000/-	MTech/BTech in Computer Science/IT/Information Systems or similar branches with minimum 3 years of post-qualification experience in Web Development/ Cyber Security, Network Management or related fields.

General Conditions:
1. The appointment shall be purely on a contractual basis for an initial period of **03 years**, extendable based on satisfactory performance and project requirements.
2. **Age Limit**: Less than 50 years
3. **Place of Posting**: Ranchi, Jharkhand
4. **Last Date for Submission:** 26/03/2026
5. Selection will be made through the walk-in interview as deemed appropriate by the Selection Committee of JSFDA
6. JSFDA reserves the right to **cancel or modify** the recruitment process at any stage without assigning any reason.
7. Only shortlisted candidates will be informed of the next stages of the selection process.

How to Apply:
Interested and eligible candidates are requested to submit their application in the prescribed format through the recruitment portal of JAP-IT i.e. **https://recruitment.jharkhand.gov.in/.**
PR 374217 Higher Education,Technical Education and Skill Development Department(25-26).D
Sd/-
(Sudhir Bara)
Executive Director, JSFDA

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving
my heartfelt thanks to St. Expedite for his quick and powerful help in my time of need. My prayers were answered, and **I am truly grateful for his blessings. Thank you, St. Expedite, for your kindness and guidance.**
– With gratitude

THANKSGIVING
Book your Thanksgiving Advertisement in **Deccan Herald**
@ 2100 with GST
(Size 4cmx5cm)
For more Details Contact:
Ph: 080- 45557163/ 164
9845114560 | 9731810277

Industrial pollution choking Koppal villages

10% residents hit by various diseases including cancer

PRAMOD KULKARNI
KOPPAL, DHNS

The concentration of industries in the vicinity of a small village with a population of under 2,500 in Koppal taluk has taken a severe toll on the health of the residents, many of whom are suffering from diseases resulting from excessive pollution.

Hirebaganala is home to a mere 2,333 people, and more than 10% of this village's population is battling a variety of diseases ranging from respiratory disorders to cancer.

The villagers attribute the problem to the black ash emitted by the industries clustered around Hirebaganala.

Upset with the authorities for their apathy towards their plight, the villagers took MLA Raghavendra Hitnal to task when he visited Hirebaganala recently.

The deputy commissioner too learnt of the full extent of the impact that industrial pollution has had on the health of the villagers during his visit a few days ago.

An inspection by the Department of Health and Family Welfare at the village brought to light some distressing facts: 124 people in Hirebaganala are dealing with respiratory disorders, while 49 others have some form of skin disease; there is one case each of uterus cancer and mouth cancer; 25 are dealing with tuberculosis; BP was observed in 58, while 40 were found to have diabetes and three villagers were found to be struggling with impaired vision.

A mother breaks down in tears with her ailing child during a meeting held at Hirebaganala village in Koppal taluk. A recent inspection by the Department of Health and Family Welfare found that the residents are suffering from several health issues in the village. DH PHOTO

Meanwhile, the Department of Health and Family Welfare is slated to undertake a similar exercise in Halavarti, Allanagar, among other villages that are in proximity to the industrial area.

Activists, on the other hand, have been protesting for 128 days demanding stricter regulations to check industrial pollution, while also urging the government to refuse permission for the proposed expansion of some industrial units in the district.

"Industrial pollution has made life in some of these villages unbearable. We want the National Medical Commission to take up this problem and carry out a thorough examination of the health of the residents of these villages. Other problems with the villagers' health may be detected," said Allamaprabhu Bettaduru, one of the activists at the vanguard of the agitation in Koppal.

District Health Officer Dr T Lingaraju said that several illnesses have been detected among the villagers and following the directions of the deputy commissioner, health check-ups of the villagers would be conducted once every ten days. Deputy Commissioner Dr Suresh Itnal said that health problems have been observed among the residents of Hirebaganala village. Notices would be issued to factories causing pollution and legal action would be taken, he added.

ನಂದಿನಿ
Nandini
The Ultimate Cooling & Healthy Summer Drink
Spiced Buttermilk
ನಂದಿನಿ ಮಸಾಲೆ ಮಜ್ಜಿಗೆ
Nandini GoodLife
ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಮಸಾಲಾ ಮಜ್ಜಿಗೆ
REFRESHING SPICED BUTTER MILK
Nandini Masala Majjige available in Pouch, tetra pak and bottles
KMF
Toll free number : 1800 425 8030 | Email : customercare. nandini@kmf.coop

Students urge state-run universities to issue hard copies of marks card

'Companies, foreign universities not accepting digital copies'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Students who have been awarded degrees by state-run universities are appealing to their alma mater to issue hard copies of their marks card, pointing out that both multi-national companies and foreign universities were insisting on the same.

Interestingly enough, government universities still insist on collecting a fee for the marks card along with the convocation fees.

Public universities were directed by the government not to issue hard copies of marks card; instead, they were mandated to upload the soft copy of the marks card on the National Academic Depository (NAD), DigiLocker and the Karnataka State Data Centre. Students are issued a unique identification number for their NAD and DigiLocker entry.

Although students are furnishing this information, companies and foreign universities appear not to be satisfied. "Some of them insist on a hard copy of the marks card," said Sudhavana, who recently completed his MCA at Bangalore University.

Adding to the students' distress, the digital versions of their marks cards are often unavailable.

"The universities blame the Unified University and College Management System. We are in a position wherein we neither have access to the digital copy of our marks card nor do we have a hard copy of the same," rued some students.

Employment opportunities lost

Regrettably, some students have lost out on promising employment opportunities for want of a hard copy of their marks card.

"MNCs are not accepting the digital copy, while they insist on attestation from the university for the duplicates. But that is not easy. I have been trying to get my duplicate marks card attested for the past 20 days," another student said.

Meanwhile, Bangalore University Registrar (Evaluation) wrote to the government last month relaying the students' concerns. Citing the February 2022 government order that prevents universities from issuing hard copies of marks card, the Registrar wrote, "We are receiving plenty of requests from students for the original physical copy of their marks card."

Sources said that the Department of Higher Education is yet to respond to Bangalore University's request. In fact, the Registrar's letter to the government was written following a decision taken at a meeting of the varsity's syndicate.

Couple from B'luru among four killed in separate accidents

KUDLIGI/ TUMAKURU, DHNS: Four people, including a couple from Bengaluru, were killed and two others sustained injuries in two separate accidents reported in Vijayanagar and Tumakuru districts on Saturday.

Srinivas (70 and his wife Ratnabai (65), residents of Patel Narayanaswamy Layout in Bengaluru, were killed after the car they were travelling in overturned near Adavi Suravvanahalli on NH 50 in Kudligi taluk on Saturday. The couple's daughter Kavithabai and her husband Rupesh, who sustained injuries in the mishap, are undergoing treatment at Kudligi general hospital.

The accident occurred when they were going to Anjanadri Hill, the abode of Lord Hanuman. According to the police, the driver, Rupesh, was overspeeding. He lost control as the vehicle veered off the road and fell into a roadside ditch. The Kudligi police have registered a case.

Two from Kerala die

In another accident reported near Nagavalli in Tumakuru taluk, Rashid Ali (25) and Amin (23), natives of Kerala, died on the spot when their lorry crashed into a tree near Sopanahalli Gate. The victims were transporting Kadapa stone to Kerala from Andhra Pradesh. The accident resulted in a traffic jam on Kunigal-Tumakuru road. The police removed the damaged lorry and cleared the traffic.

The Hebburu police have registered a case.

At 0.44%, state's HIV prevalence above national average 0.2%

Health dept identifies 27 dists as high-priority zones

BENGALURU, DHNS

As many as 27 districts in the state have been identified as high-priority districts for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) prevalence, said Dr Rakesh Gupta, Additional Secretary of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Director General of the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO).

Speaking at the Suraksha Sankalp Workshop here, Dr Rakesh Gupta said, "HIV prevalence in the state is 0.44%, which is higher than the national average of 0.2%. Approximately 2.91 lakh people are living with HIV infection in the state".

While Uttara Kannada, Udupi, Koppal and Mandya have achieved the first '95' target, Raichur and Chamarajanagar districts have achieved the second '95' target, he said. 95-95–95 is a target in HIV eradication where 95% of HIV-positive individuals know their status, 95% of those diagnosed are on treatment, and 95% of those patients achieve viral suppression.

Under Mission AIDS Suraksha, India aims to achieve HIV control by World AIDS Day on December 1, 2027, he said.

"As many as 219 priority districts with high HIV impact and infection rates have been identified across the country based on the rate of infection, prevalence, disease load and high-risk groups," said Dr Rakesh Gupta.

Speaking at the same event, Harsh Gupta, principal secretary to the department of health and family welfare, said, "HIV control programmes in the state have been given a new form. The objective is to achieve significant results within the next six months. Instead of running counselling and treatment systems separately, there is a need to integrate them with each other to provide seamless service to patients. The districts have been divided into three levels. Special attention will be given to 'tier-3' districts with low performance and instructions have been given to quickly rectify data reconciliation or structural issues," he added.

टी बोर्ड भारत
TEA BOARD INDIA
www.teaboard.gov.in
INDIA TEA
World's Gold Standard
India Tea – Born of Nature, Nurtured by the Hands That Fill Our Lives with Goodness and Warmth
Our Tribute to the Women Who Care for Our Heritage
Happy International Women's Day
8 March, 2026
© Copyright, Tea Board India, 2026
DARJEELING INDIA TEA
ASSAM INDIA TEA
ASSAM ORTHODOX INDIA TEA
NILGIRI INDIA TEA
NILGIRI ORTHODOX INDIA TEA
KANGRA TEA INDIA TEA
DOOARS - TERAI INDIA TEA
SIKKIM TEA ORGANIC INDIA TEA
TRIPURA TEA INDIA TEA
BIHAR TEA INDIA TEA

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Geo-Fencing Based
mVahan Fitness Mobile Application
Implemented in 66 RTO Offices in Karnataka

1. To avoid discrepancies in issuing Fitness Certificates for Commercial (Transport) Vehicles, registered in the State of Karnataka the Transport Department has implemented a Geo-Fencing based mVahan Fitness Mobile Application in all 66 RTO offices across Karnataka
2. The objective of the mVahan Fitness Mobile Application is to bring greater transparency and accountability in the vehicle fitness certification process across all RTO offices in the State and this initiative will increase the confidence of vehicle owners and the general public
3. The new system is introduced in order to eliminate all probable loopholes and to ensure Fitness Certificates issued only after proper inspection of vehicles
4. In Karnataka, there are more than 30 lakh registered commercial (transport) vehicles and frequent complaints were received regarding lack of unified & transparency system in issue of Fitness Certificates.
5. In this regard, new mVahan Fitness Mobile Application developed by NIC has been implemented
6. With the aid of this application, Geo-Fencing technology ensures that vehicles are inspected only at designated inspection locations of the respective RTO offices
7. Vehicle inspection will take place as per the provisions of Motor Vehicle Act and Rules framed there under, only after the vehicle physically enters the designated inspection location.
8. During the inspection process, six photographs of the vehicle will be mandatorily captured and only after verification in the application, Vehicle Fitness Certificate will be issued
9. Apart from the designated inspection locations, there will be no provision to issue Fitness Certificates elsewhere
10. Registering Authorities have been instructed to conduct re-inspection of at least 20% of the vehicles that apply for fitness certificates.
11. The mVahan Fitness Mobile Application has been implemented in some states in the country and is currently being implemented in the State of Karnataka.
12. This system will help in reducing road accidents and enhance overall road safety.
13. The long-standing concerns and complaints regarding the vehicle fitness certification system will be effectively addressed through this initiative

Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Muzrai Department
Shri Ramalinga Reddy
Participating in the Department's Event

Sd/-
Commissioner
Transport & Road Safety

POLITICAL HOT POTATO Clouds recruitment process hastened by Dharwad job stir

Internal quota maze puts CM's manouevring skills to test

SUJAY B M & PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah once again finds himself navigating a familiar, but politically fraught terrain, a complex maze of caste and reservation politics that has repeatedly shaped electoral fortunes in Karnataka.

The current flashpoint is the demand for internal reservation among Scheduled Castes (SCs). With litigation pending and no clear consensus within the Cabinet, the matter has become politically sensitive for Siddaramaiah, widely regarded as the architect of the AHINDA (Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes and Dalits) social coalition.

The SC (Left) or Madiga community has for decades demanded internal reservation to ensure a more equitable distribution of benefits. There was the Justice A J Sadashiva Commission, a Cabinet sub-committee headed by (former law minister) J C Madhuswamy, and more recently, the one-man commission led by Justice H N Nagamohan Das to implement internal reservation.

The Madhuswamy panel under the previous Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP government derived the 6–5.5–4.5–1 formula — 6% for Madigas, 5.5% for Holeyas, 4.5% for Lambani, Bhovi, Korma and Korcha communities, and 1% for nomadic and semi-nomadic groups. This, after the Bommai government hiked SC/ST quota - from 15% to 17% for SCs and 3% to 7% for STs - taking the total reservation to 56%, breaching the 50% cap fixed by the Supreme Court.

But Madhuswamy's formula was opposed by Lambani, Bhovi, Korma and Korcha communities, which argued that it curtailed their share.

The debate gathered momentum after the Supreme Court's landmark ruling on August 1, 2024, empowering states to provide internal reservation among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The Siddaramaiah government constituted the Das Commission, which proposed 1–6–5–4–1 formula — 1% for 59 nomadic, semi-nomadic and highly vulnerable communities; 6% for Madiga and 18 affiliated castes; 5% for Holeya and 16 affiliated castes; 4% for Lambani, Bhovi, Korma and Korcha communities; and 1% for Adi Karnataka, Adi Dravida and Adi Andhra communities.

But following differences within the Cabinet, two communities grouped with Madigas were shifted to Holeya category, while Adi Karnataka, Adi Dravida and Adi Andhra were given the option to join either the Madiga or Holeya groups.

The nomadic communities were clubbed with Lambani, Bhovi, Korma and Korcha and the government adopted the 6–6–5 formula (17% quota).

The nomadic communities petitioned the High Court stating they had been grouped with communities that were better placed socially and economically.

The High Court, while allowing ongoing recruitment, has directed appointments to be subjected to the final outcome of petitions related to enhanced reservation (as it exceeds 50% cap) and internal quota.

The ruling Congress passed the internal reservation Bill and following protests by job aspirants at Dharwad demanding recruitment to 2.84 lakh government vacancies, Dalit ministers convinced Governor Thawarchand Gehlot to grant assent to the Bill. But, on February 26, the Cabinet failed to reach consensus. Even though the government decided to initiate recruitment for 56,432 jobs within a month (for 15%), there is no clarity on internal reservation. This has triggered protests from opposition parties and Madiga community.

Holeya (SC right), Lambani, Bhovi, Korma and Korcha communities have expressed reservations about introducing internal reservation in the current recruitment cycle, arguing it could weaken their position within the SC category.

It is also believed that Siddaramaiah may be going slow on the issue as he does not want to antagonise the SC (right) ministers, some of who are backing his leadership amid the tussle with Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

For the chief minister, the stakes are significant. The Kuruba strongman built his political identity around the AHINDA coalition, but divisions within Scheduled Caste communities threaten to strain that carefully cultivated social base.

Karnataka's political history offers several reminders of how caste interventions can reshape electoral outcomes. Removal of Veerendra Patil as CM by the Congress leadership in 1990 drove the Lingayat community towards the BJP.

Again, the Siddaramaiah government backing the 'separate Lingayat religion' contributed to the Congress' defeat in 2018. Congress was accused to trying to divide the Veerashaiva-Lingayats.

How Siddaramaiah navigates competing demands within SC communities while preserving the broader AHINDA coalition could be a test of his political survival instincts.

OPTIONS BEFORE GOVT

1. It can move Supreme Court against high court's interim order on enhanced quota. If Supreme Court refuses to stay the order, it can urge the apex court to direct the HC to clear the case within 4 or 6 weeks.
2. Point out the ripple effect of internal quota Act to HC and urge it to settle the matter once and for all.
3. Recalibrate internal reservation by proportionately reducing the 6-6-5 formula to a 15% quota; Cabinet can okay 5-5-4-1 formula, which will give nomadic communities separate 1% reservation.

HOLI IN THE AIR

The soaring temperature did not dampen the spirit and enthusiasm as a large number of revelers soaked in Holi colours on the occasion of Ranga Panchami, celebrated on the fifth day after the full moon day, in Hubballi on Saturday.
DH PHOTO/GOVINDARAJ JAWALI

Govt hosp staff protest on Mar 11, OPD services to be suspended

HAVERI, DHNS: Doctors, officials, employees, and staff of government hospitals across the state have called for a protest starting March 11, urging the fulfilment of their demands. During this period, outpatient department (OPD) services in hospitals are expected to be suspended.

State Government Medical Officers' Association district unit president Dr Channabasayya Viraktmath said that the problems faced by doctors, officials, employees, and staff in government hospitals must be addressed. He emphasised that pending allowances, salary payments, and other demands should be fulfilled.

From March 11 to March 15, doctors and hospital staff at district hospitals, taluk hospitals, community health centres, and primary health centres will wear black bands and begin their protest. On these days, outpatient services will be suspended, and only emergency services will be provided.

He said the second phase of the protest will begin on March 16 and continue until all demands are met. During this indefinite strike, all doctors, officials, employees, and staff in government hospitals will refrain from their regular duties.

The protest is organised with the support of the State Government Medical Officers' Association, the State Health and Medical Education Department Employees' Union, and other associations.

'Govt cheated SC/STs by diverting funds to guarantees'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy charged that the Congress-led state government has cheated the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) communities by diverting funds meant for them to guarantee schemes.

Addressing a news conference on Saturday, he advised Dalit activists and organisations to question the chief minister over the injustice.

"If we look back under SEP and TSP, how much money was reserved? In 2023–24, Rs 30,930 crore was reserved. In 2024–25, Rs 39,122 crore. In 2025–26, Rs 42,017 crore. This time Rs 44,632 crore has been announced. In four years, Rs 1,56,701 crore has been announced. But of this, 50% of the money, Rs 78,350 crore, has been distributed to PWD, irrigation and other departments. Out of the remaining Rs 78,350 crore, Rs 53,059 crore has been taken for guarantees till now," he said.

He further stated that in four years, only Rs 25,291 crore remains for SC/ST welfare programmes.

Advising Dalit activists and organisations to question Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over the issue, Narayanaswamy said, "In 2025–26, Ambedkar Corporation was given Rs 125 crore, Tanda Corporation Rs 75 crore, Adi Jambava Corporation Rs 62 crore, Bovi Corporation Rs 68 crore, Safai Karmachari Corporation Rs 31 crore, Valmiki Corporation Rs 156 crore and Lidkar Corporation Rs 43 crore, totalling Rs 562 crore."

"In 2025–26, out of Rs 42,017 crore, Rs 14,000 crore went for guarantees. Only Rs 7,000 crore was given to social welfare. Out of that, only Rs 562 crore was given to corporations. Dalit activists and organisations must question this injustice," he added.

Iran's prez apologises for strikes on neighbours

Iran, From Page 3

The Guard, which controls the ballistic missiles targeting Israel and others. It answered only to Khamenei and now appears to be picking its own targets as the conflict widens.

General Abolfazl Shekarchi, Iran's armed forces spokesman, then added more confusion by saying after Pezeshkian that Tehran has "not hit countries that did not provide space for America to invade our country".

While the Iranian president attempted to assuage growing Gulf Arab anger over the attacks, just hours earlier, a wave of missiles and drones had disrupted flights at Dubai International Airport, targeted a major Saudi oil facility and sent people fleeing for cover multiple times in Bahrain.

Pezeshkian also kept up his criticism of Trump's call for Iran to unconditionally surrender to America.

"That's a dream that they should take to their grave," he said.

Shortly after Pezeshkian's message, Trump warned in a social media post Saturday that more Iranian officials would become targets in the war, writing: "Today Iran will be hit very hard!" In his comments on his Truth Social website, Trump noted the apology by Pezeshkian.

Domestic LPG price hiked by Rs 60

LPG, from Page 3

Around 60% of India's LPG requirements are met through imports. Opposition parties, including the Congress, Trinamool Congress and Samajwadi Party, strongly criticised the Modi government for the price hike.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced that Trinamool's women wing will stage street protests on the LPG price issue on Sunday, the International Women's Day.

Questioning the government's claim of having adequate petroleum stocks amid the West Asia crisis, the Congress accused the government of "wielding the whip of inflation" on common people.

Oil prices have soared to over two-year highs in the international market due to the escalating situation in West Asia, one of the leading suppliers of fossil fuels to the world. Brent crude price soared to $93 per barrel on Friday, the highest level since autumn 2023.

Qatar's energy minister has warned that crude oil price may hit $150 a barrel if the conflict continues over the coming weeks.

Analysts said Russian oil purchases could help India minimise the impact of the West Asia conflict on its economy. "The impact on India's economy may be a short-term impact on remittances and crude oil imports.

The forward contracts booked for future delivery of oil will partially be offset by reprieve on purchase of Russian oil through a 30 days window," SBI Research said in a note. US President Donald Trump's administration has issued a 30-day waiver permitting the sale of Russian crude currently stranded at sea to India

Celebrating groundbreakers

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಸಾಧಕಿಯರು 2026

Prajavani Saadhakiyaru Award was instituted two years ago with the goal of recognising the selfless service and accomplishments of women, the driving force of our society. The objective is to bring to limelight the relentless yet silent pursuit of women whose actions and deeds brought a remarkable change in society.

This year marks the third edition of the award. We have selected these women of action and strength from the oblivions of society.

There is no doubt that present-day social fabric holds is strength on account of this "Stree Shakti." But, this latent 'Shakti' is not manifested ostentatiously in public.

Here we have this year's league of women achievers.

S ASHA
A green warrior who revived lakes and ponds restoring livelihoods in rural areas.

T C DEEPIKA
A visually challenged woman who led India to victory in Blind Women's World Cup.

GIRIJAMMA SARANGA
A unique folksinger connecting generations.

KAMALAMMA
Midwife facilitating child birth for over 200 women in hilly villages

JAANU
India's first ventriloquist from sexual minority community

SAVITHA
Challenged physical disability and delivers food on wheelchair

SHIVALEELA C PATIL
A garments entrepreneur providing jobs to 70 women

M GOUSIA KHAN
A brave heart who fought Ballari mining barons single handedly and succeeded in retaining a piece of land.

SHANKARAVVA LAMANI
Drives road-roller; "Avva" (mother) providing employment to 30 people as a supervisor

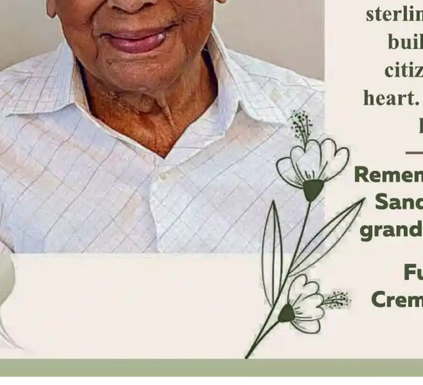
RAGINI
This enterprising tribal woman set up ragi products manufacturing unit and became a role model for others.

Special Partner BHIMA | Mobility Partner HYUNDAI | Realty Partner KNS INFRA | Associate Sponsors RAMRAJ mythu TOWELS, The Chennai Silks, Sree Kumaran JEWELLERS, Gold Winner | Television Partner NEWS

DH DECCAN HERALD Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements

Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

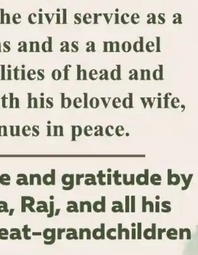
SAD DEMISE



Regret to inform the Sad Demise of my beloved wife
Smt. Chandrika K
on **6th March 2026 at 9:40 pm** in Manipal Hospital, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore

Hari om !
Pradeep, Dhatri and Sagar. Contact: 90080 00128

SIXTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Group Captain
Dr. VIJAY KUMAR SETH
(IAF/AMC Retd.)
Passed away on 08.03.2020, Schooling ; St. Xaviers Boys High School, Gaya, Bihar, Intermediate ; Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Varanasi MBBS from Darbhanga Medical College, Bihar. Certified Course in Hospital Administration from NIHFW, New Delhi.
An exemplary personality loved and adored by one and all
Inserted by
Daughters: Ex Capt Dr. Reena Seth, & Miss Ranjana Seth
M.Sc Botany Hons, B.Ed, from Osmania University, Hyderabad with distinction (80%)

With great sadness, we announce the passing of

S RAMANATHAN
(IAS Retd.)
16 January 1928 - 7 March 2026

A gentleman of great strength, wit, curiosity, and wisdom, whose love of life and for all of us was constant. He had a sterling reputation in the civil service as a builder of institutions and as a model citizen with rare qualities of head and heart. Now reunited with his beloved wife, his journey continues in peace.

Remembered with love and gratitude by Sandhya, Sangeetha, Raj, and all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Funeral at Harishchandra Ghat Crematorium, Monday, 9 March, 4pm

CM says Kambala transcends caste & religion, assures financial aid

MANGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said the state government was committed to protect and preserve Kambala, a popular traditional sport in coastal region, and assured of financial assistance in holding the high-octane buffalo race.

He was speaking at the 15th edition of Mudooru–Padooru Jodukare floodlight Kambala at Koodibail in Navoor village of Bantwal taluk.

Siddaramaiah said, "Kambala is a popular traditional sport in the region. It transcends caste and religion and is organised by people from all communities. Kambala organisers have expressed interest in holding the event in Mysuru as well. There is a need to pass the Kambala baton to next generation," he said and added that the state government will provide the financial assistance in organising Kambala.

Funds for Bantwal stadium

Responding to former minister Ramanath Rai's appeal for funds to construct taluk stadium in Bantwal, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that funds will be released for the stadium in the next financial year.

Rai said 10 acres of land was identified at Benjanapadavu for the stadium. The CM had in his first term as CM had sanctioned Rs 10 crore for the stadium, but the work could not be taken up for some reasons.

MLAs T D Rajegowda and Ashok Rai, MLC Ivan D'Souza and others were present.

Web developer killed in KSRTC bus–car collision near Yellapur

KARWAR, PTI: A 39-year-old man died after his car allegedly collided with a KSRTC bus in Uttara Kannada district, police said on Saturday.

Mukesh Krishna Shetty, a web developer and founder of Maks Infotech, was travelling from Kundapur to Hubballi on March 5 when the accident occurred in Yellapur taluk.

Shetty was rushed to the government hospital in Yellapur, but succumbed to his injuries during treatment, police said.

Authorities suspect that the airbag in the car may have burst during the crash, possibly contributing to the fatality.

Though the front portion of the car was completely crushed in the collision, Shetty reportedly sustained only minor external injuries to his legs and hands.

Officials said Shetty was wearing a seat belt at the time of the accident, which triggered the airbag deployment. However, the airbag was later found torn, raising suspicion that it may have burst during impact.

Based in Mangaluru, Shetty had founded Maks Infotech in Bendorewell and worked as a senior web developer for several digital news platforms across Karnataka.

He is survived by wife, mother and two brothers.

Tech-savvy '8th pass' gangs driving cybercrime surge: DGP

'They have mastered how we behave around technology'

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Home Minister G Parameshwara emphasised the state's commitment to building a "Cyber Command" that bridges the gap between law enforcement, academia, and industry.

He was speaking after inaugurating the third edition of Cybercrime Investigation Summit-2026, organised by the Centre for Cybercrime Investigation Training and Research (ECODE), on Saturday.

Speaking at the summit, Pronab Mohanty, Director General of Police (Cyber Command), said cybercriminals with minimal formal education but high technical proficiency are driving a surge in digital fraud across Karnataka.

He revealed that many perpetrators behind sophisticated "pig butchering" and stock market scams are "Class 8 pass" individuals operating out of remote clusters.

"These individuals have a terrifyingly high grasp of technology. They may not have university degrees, but they have mastered how we behave around technology," Mohanty said during his keynote address at the session 'Cybercrime – The Karnataka Experience.'

(From left) Pronab Mohanty, DGP (Cyber Command), DG&IGP M A Saleem, Home Minister G Parameshwara, Sunil Kumar Dhareshwar, Trustee of the Infosys Foundation, and Vinayak Godse, CEO of the Data Security Council of India, at the third edition of Cybercrime Investigation Summit-2026 in Bengaluru on Saturday.

'Scam cities' and digital slavery

Mohanty highlighted the rise of organised "scam cities" in Southeast Asian border regions, where victims are often trafficked and held in "digital slavery."

"Their passports are seized, and they are forced to operate these scams 24/7. It's an industry with gyms, spas, and halls, but the people inside are essentially slaves," he said.

He estimated that global cybercrime damages could reach $12 trillion by the end of 2026, a figure nearly half the size of the US economy.

The AI challenge

The DGP expressed concern over the rapid evolution of Generative AI and Deepfakes, noting that detection tools often struggle to keep pace.

"Today, you may detect a deepfake, but two months later, the manufacturer of that AI will have bypassed your detection. It is a constant game of cat and mouse," he added.

Other dignitaries present included Sunil Kumar Dhareshwar, Trustee of the Infosys Foundation, and Vinayak Godse, CEO of the Data Security Council of India.

Emphasising the need to bridge the gap between high-tech forensics and ground-level policing, Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP) M A Saleem called for the "penetration of sophisticated investigation tools" to the police station level to ensure justice for the common man.

Speaking at the valedictory session, Saleem noted that despite Karnataka's leadership in digital security, the detection rate for cybercrimes remains a modest 10-15%.

"If a citizen losing money does not get justice at the police station, the cutting edge of our service, our efforts lose relevance," he said, adding that the summit would expand to a two-day event next year to include Station House Officers (SHOs) from across India.

Earlier, Mohanty highlighted the borderless nature of modern crime, where "victim, criminal, and evidence often exist in different jurisdictions."

He stressed the importance of the newly released research resources on smartwatch forensics and virtual digital assets to aid investigators.

Bhima Shankar Guled, DIG (PCID), summarised the day's deliberations, which spanned cryptocurrency forensics, deepfake detection, and OSINT.

He remarked that in the age of AI, policing remains an evergreen job for those willing to upgrade.

The summit drew experts from across the country to fortify India's digital resilience.

Cybercrime Summit 2026: Experts warn of 400% rise in APK attacks

Cutting-edge forensic hardware among highlights of summit

BENGALURU, DHNS

The third edition of the Cybercrime Investigation Summit-2026, organised by the Centre for Cybercrime Investigation Training & Research (ECODE) flagged a staggering 400% increase in malware detections over the past year, with experts warning that mobile devices had become the primary gateway for sophisticated cyber attacks.

Speaking at a session titled "The Trojan in Your Pocket," Midhun S, a malware researcher revealed that authorities have analysed over 28GB of malicious Trojan data.

In 2025 alone, Asia registered more than 90,000 registered complaints, averaging 1,700 cyber-related reports per day.

Midhun detailed how modern dropper applications abuse Android's Accessibility Permissions to take full control of devices. These apps often prevent uninstallation by crashing the system settings when a user tries to remove them.

"The best way to eliminate these persistent parasites is to reboot the device into Safe Mode," he advised, noting that this allows for the removal of third-party apps without interference from the malware's background processes.

Challenges in digital forensics

Mario Burkart, a solutions architect from Oxygen Forensics, USA, addressed the "New Age of Mobile Evidence." He noted that data acquisition is becoming increasingly difficult as more information moves to the cloud. "Once you close a web browser, data is often deleted immediately. On many phones, original photos are moved to Google or Apple servers within seconds, leaving only small thumbnails behind," Burkart explained. He urged investigators to expand their scope to include Apple watches, smart homes, and connected cars.

Home Minister G Parameshwara, (DG&IGP) M A Saleem and other senior police officers at the Cybercrime Summit 2026 on Saturday.

High-tech probe tools

The summit featured an exhibition of cutting-edge forensic hardware. One of the tools that was highlighted was PC-3000 Flash, which allows investigators to recover data from physically damaged SD cards and broken pendrives by reading the memory chips directly.

Exhibitors also demonstrated password-breaking hardware capable of cracking a six-digit mobile passcode in under ten minutes. While data recovery tools are available to private entities, the password-breaking technology remains restricted to law enforcement agencies to ensure ethical use in criminal investigations.

HDK flags Cong govt's increase in year-on-year borrowing

BENGALURU, DHNS: Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H D Kumaraswamy on Saturday expressed concern over the increase in the borrowing in the 2026-27 State Budget presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

"Borrowing has increased from Rs 1.16 lakh crore last year to Rs 1.32 lakh crore this year. At this rate, the debt is certain to cross Rs 9 lakh crore next year. This guarantee of debt is frightening," said Kumaraswamy.

Pointing out that, while the outlay of the budget stood at Rs 4.48 lakh crore, the state's outstanding debt had mounted to Rs 8.24 lakh crore, Kumaraswamy added, "Unfortunately, the borrowed money is going into the pockets of Congress leaders." The Union Minister sought to know what the borrowed money was being used for. "You (CM) are borrowing money, which is fine. But shouldn't there be a proportional increase in capital expenditure? But the capital expenditure has been stagnant for the past three years," remarked Kumaraswamy.

Accusing the Congress government of extravagance, Kumaraswamy added, "The government has accorded Cabinet and state minister ranks to more than 140 Congress leaders, who are being lavishly sustained, while debt piles up. Money is being expended on unproductive ventures, while the government has become a 'gruel source' for the Congress. People are being pushed into a debt trap for the mistake of having voted Congress into power. This is a disastrous budget."

Successive governments will have to bear the onerous burden of repaying the huge debts that have piled up, said Kumaraswamy.

Karnataka bleeds money to fill Centre's fund gaps

Fund gaps , from Page 3

"As a result, Central assistance reaches barely 15% of total beneficiaries in the state," the MTFP said. In the current fiscal, Karnataka has spent an estimated Rs 10,668 crore on social security pensions of which the Centre's share is just Rs 639 crore.

Karnataka has also flagged similar funding gaps in housing and food grain procurement. "Delays and shortfalls in the release of Central funds under centrally-sponsored schemes have imposed significant cash-flow pressures on the state," the MTFP said. "These structural pressures have reduced flexibility in resource allocation, constrained discretionary and developmental spending, and limited the pace of capital formation." Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, for example, Karnataka has had to pay even the Centre's share to keep the programme going. So far, the state has released Rs 24,598 crore against the Centre's Rs 11,787 crore.

Category	No. of workers	Monthly honorarium	Annual share	Central share	State share	State top-up
ASHA	42,524	Rs 8,000	Rs 408 cr	Rs 102 cr	Rs 306 cr	Rs 306 cr
Anganwadi workers	65,933	Rs 12,000	Rs 949 cr	Rs 214 cr	Rs 736 cr	Rs 593 cr
Anganwadi helpers	65,933	Rs 7,000	Rs 554 cr	Rs 107 cr	Rs 447 cr	Rs 376 cr
State Anganwadi workers	3,988	Rs 12,000	Rs 57 cr	-	Rs 57 cr	Rs 57 cr
State Anganwadi helpers	3,988	Rs 7,000	Rs 33 cr	-	Rs 33 cr	Rs 33 cr
Mid-day meal cooks	46,617	Rs 4,700	Rs 219 cr	Rs 34 cr	Rs 191 cr	Rs 207 cr
Mid-day meal helpers	79,486	Rs 4,600	Rs 366 cr	Rs 57 cr	Rs 318 cr	Rs 343 cr
Total	3,08,469	Rs 55,300	Rs 2,587 cr	Rs 513 cr	Rs 2,089 cr	Rs 1,917 cr

Source: Medium Term Fiscal Plan 2026-30

With single-screen cinemas are shutting down, film viewing is becoming expensive for the common man.

'Multiplexes expensive, budget hasn't addressed it'

PRANATI A S
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state budget includes several initiatives aimed for the Kannada film industry. They include Cine Mitra for single-window shooting clearances; digital location map of tourist destinations and historical monuments where filmmakers can shoot; Puttanna Kanagal museum; preservation of historical materials like photographs, documentaries and the film city.

While the initiatives look like welcome moves, some filmmakers and critics say the budget misses key concerns.

"It is not enough," says filmmaker Chaitanya K M. "Our films are suffering because people are no longer coming to theatres. Single-screen cinemas are shutting down, while multiplexes are becoming expensive for the average viewer. For the past 15 years, successive governments have spoken about an initiative called Janata Talkies, but nobody has implemented it".

The idea is to build small 100-150 seat theatres in different localities with affordable tickets, food and beverages so that working-class audiences can return to theatres.

"Many of the other initiatives may help the broader film industry, but Janata Talkies will bring people back to Kannada movies," Chaitanya adds.

The government implemented a Rs 200 cap on movie ticket prices last year.

However, ahead of the release of 'Kantara Chapter 1' last October, Hombale Films filed a petition and brought a stay on the order. It is now pending in the High Court.

"Is it so difficult for the government to get the stay vacated?" says filmmaker Mansore.

"Isn't Hombale Films a member of Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce? The chamber has supported the government order, why can't it reach an understanding with Hombale for the industry's larger good?" asks senior journalist Chetan Nadiger.

CHETAN NADIGER
Senior journalist

"Isn't Hombale Films a member of Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce? The chamber has supported the government order, why can't it reach an understanding with Hombale for the industry's larger good?

"Most of the other initiatives are routine ones which have to be done either way and others are requests the industry has been putting forth for many years now. Every year, a certain amount of money has to be spent and they are doing that," says Nadiger.

Filmmakers are issued a permission letter by the information and public relations department for shooting. However, the letter only serves as basic approval and does not cover clearances from other agencies such as gram panchayat, forest department and PWD. Getting these permissions separately makes the process time consuming.

"The film industry has been demanding a single-window clearance system for a very long time. While it has now been announced, only time will tell whether it will actually be implemented," Mansore adds.

Another initiative which will make shooting easier is mapping tourist destinations and historical sites for film shoots.

"It is a welcome move because we often do not know which location is available. This map will save time," he says.

However, he says, the government should introduce a uniform payment system and Kannada films should be able to get permissions at subsidised rates.

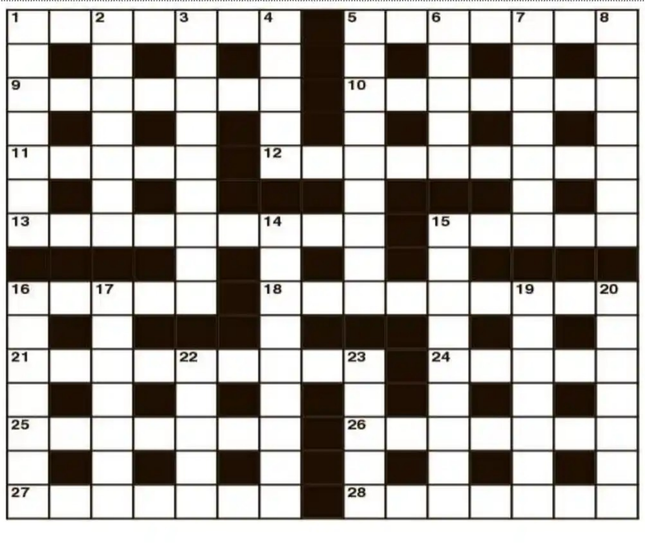
Senior journalist Muralidhara Khajane says the film industry faces challenges due to inadequate funding and a lack of comprehensive film policies. "Despite many such announcements every year, implementation remains a concern," he said.

Film city, an elusive promise?

The film city in Mysuru has been talked about for years, but progress remains slow. "They announced the film city last year as well, but there is no timeline or deadline for its completion," says Nadiger.

"This has been going on forever. We have to go to Hyderabad or Mumbai to shoot. This film city project has been in discussion for over 15 years now, yet nothing has been built," Chaitanya said.

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2670 ◆



ACROSS
1 Deadlock (7)
5 Make known generally (7)
9 Confused struggle (7)
10 Highly strung (7)
11 Untruthfulness (5)
12 Of inferior quality (5-4)
13 Long complicated procedure (9)
15 Shabby (5)
16 Cupidity (5)
18 Special operation unit (4,5)
21 Ahead (2,3,4)
24 Pummel with fists (5)
25 Maintain regular check on (7)
26 Portuguese Atlantic island (7)
27 Withdraw (7)
28 Mitigate (7)

DOWN
1 Narrow-minded (7)
2 Raining heavily (7)
3 A precaution (9)
4 Put up (5)
5 Impoverished (9)
6 Wearied by tedium (5)
7 To cut off from society (7)
8 Stockings and socks (7)
14 In succession (2,3,4)
15 Tone down (4-5)
16 A feeble light (7)
17 No longer existing (7)
19 Everyday (7)
20 Final stage strategy in chess (7)
22 Above and beyond (5)
23 Raise objections (5)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4030

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 9, Ill temper 10, On the line 12, Norm 13, G-rovel 14, Gar-nets (rev) 15, Conscious 17, Press-es on 18, Eyelets 19, Pre-fix 20, Swa-b 23, F-irst-rate 25, Ba-gate-lle 26, Go-re 27, S-table 29, S-tiff-en 32, Ring a bell 34, Goingover 35, Host-ile 36, Stalls 37, (k)Cub-a (rev) 38, Assuredly 39, Can-tones-e.
DOWN: 1, Pinnac-L-e 2, Glaring error 3, S-pu-riou-s 4, Drives 5, Col-lapse 6, Sta-gge-ring 7, Re-dress 8, Person-able 11, I-tem-s 16, Create 19, Pie 21, Well-favoured 22, St-R-ing 23, Figure-head 24, At th-e-re-ady 25, Bee (B) 28, Bull's-eye 29, S-will-ing 30, Nar-rated 31, Rap-iers 33, Ne-s-ts 34, Glance.

EASY
ACROSS: 9, Abhorrent 10, Announcer 12, Army 13, Hectic 14, Egghead 15, Spineless 17, Panoramic 18, Dentist 19, Annual 20, Kiwi 23, Unhelpful 25, Ethiopian 26, Cope 27, Covert 29, Impasse 32, Labyrinth 34, Reference 35, Ukulele 36, Umpire 37, Aria 38, Efficient 39, Traversed.
DOWN: 1, Harassed 2, Championship 3, Reverent 4, Status 5, Saucepan 6, Underneath 7, Surgery 8, Prediction 11, Cream 16, Edible 19, Awl 21, Idiosyncrasy 22, Copper 23, Uncultured 24, Floundered 25, Eft 28, Exhausts 29, Informal 30, Emeralds 31, Urgency 33, Bluff 34, Repute.

SU DO KU X - 3849

3			4	7			9	
	1							3
	6	8	2					
7		1						
			9				8	1
	4				5			
			3					
	8							
	2							

SOLUTION TO 3848

4	7	1	5	6	3	2	8	9
8	2	3	9	4	7	1	5	6
5	6	9	8	2	1	7	3	4
9	3	5	7	8	4	6	2	1
7	1	6	2	3	9	8	4	5
2	4	8	1	5	6	3	9	7
1	9	2	4	7	8	5	6	3
3	8	7	6	9	5	4	1	2
6	5	4	3	1	2	9	7	8

To solve the puzzle:
The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Prez upset over venue, PM slams Mamata; Didi: Don't do politics

Murmu-Mamata, From Page 3

Earlier, addressing a think crowd, Murmu said: "During the visits of the President, generally, the chief minister should welcome her, and other ministers should be present. She has not come, though. The governor has been transferred, so he could not come."

"It appears that some people did not want the Santhals to progress, to learn and to unite to be strong," said the president. Gautam Deb, the Mayor of Siliguri, was the only representative of the state government to receive the visiting Head of State.

Mamata was in Kolkata, where she was leading a TMC sit-in protest against the SIR of voter rolls.

Modi, Shah slam govt

Taking to X, Modi said, "Their (TMC) administration is responsible for this insult to the President. It is equally unfortunate that a subject as important as Santal culture is treated so casually by the West Bengal Government."

Home Minister Amit Shah, on X, said, "The TMC government today hit a new low in its anarchic behaviour by humiliating the President of India with its glaring disregard for protocol."

India pledges support as Nepal set to be led by VTU alumnus

Nepal, From Page 3

"It is heartening to see my Nepali sisters and brothers exercise their democratic rights so vibrantly. This historic milestone is a proud moment in Nepal's democratic journey," Modi wrote on X.

New Delhi is likely to wait for the official declaration of the election results before congratulating Shah and the RSP for the victory.

India had hailed the Gen Z uprising in Nepal in September 2025, with Modi himself lauding the youths of the neighbouring country for what he called "the advent of the new dawn".

Shah, an alumnus of the Visvesvaraya Technological University in Karnataka, and the RSP rode the wave of aspirations triggered by the Gen Z uprising, which had swept Nepal and overthrown the government led by K P Sharma Oli of the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninist) or CPN-UML.

The RSP — founded by journalist-turned-politician Rabi Lamichhane in 2022 — leveraged on Gen Z discontent against traditional parties and promised to root out corruption, governance reform, creation of jobs, better healthcare and education, and digital services.

The party promised to pursue a 'Nepal First' foreign policy, with a focus on protecting the sovereignty and dignity of the nation and transforming it from a "buffer state" into a "vibrant bridge" between India and China.

New Delhi is likely to focus more on addressing the aspirations of the youths of Nepal in its engagement with Shah's government in Kathmandu.

Nepal's 275-member lower house comprises 165 directly elected members and 110 chosen through proportional representation.

The Nepali Communist Party, born out of the November 2025 merger of several parties and led by another former prime minister, Pushpa Kamal Dahal a.k.a. Prachanda, could win only two seats and was leading in nine other constituencies.

The Nepali Congress won in 10 and secured leads in nine others, clearly ceding its centrist space to the RSP.

The decimation of the communist parties, particularly the CPN (UML), in Nepal is good news for India, given its interest in limiting China's influence in South Asia.

Oli's relations with New Delhi had turned sour during his second term as the prime minister.

In April–May 2020, amid the India-China military stand-off along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, Kathmandu had lodged a protest with New Delhi over a new 80-km road built by India from Dharchula in Uttarakhand to the Lipulekh Pass tri-junction, alleging it passed through the territory of Nepal.

New Delhi had dismissed the claim, but Oli's government in Kathmandu had issued a new map showing nearly 400 sq km of areas in Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura as part of Nepal. During Oli's visit to Beijing in December 2024, Nepal and China officially signed the Belt and Road Initiative Cooperation Framework.

The pro-China approach of Prachanda, a former insurgent leader, during his first term as the prime minister, triggered concerns in India. He, however, took a more balanced approach in his subsequent stints at the helm of the government in Nepal.

China had played a key role in uniting the main communist parties of Nepal – Oli's CPN (UML) and Prachanda's Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre).

Agency fights spurious seed scourge

Seeds, From Page 3

To ensure high seed quality, certification is necessary for quality control of seed multiplication and production. The purpose is to secure, maintain and make available certain prescribed standards of genetic identity and purity, physical purity, physiological quality and seed health, she added.

"The seed certification facilitates international trade and benefits farmers by quality produce and by using globally-recognised labels," Lavanya said.

Seed to certified seed

"Seed certification is voluntary but vital," explains a senior official at KSSOCA. The process is rigorous. Whether it is the Karnataka State Seeds Corporation (KSSC), the National Seeds Corporation (NSC), or private producers, any entity wishing to sell "certified seeds" must pass through KSSOCA's three-stage testing including field and lab standards.

"We will inspect the farmers in critical stages of the crop growth to meet our field standards for producing good quality seeds. The major crop seeds we receive for certification include cereals such as rice, ragi, and jowar; pulses like Bengal gram and pigeon pea; oilseeds including groundnut and soya; and sun hemp in the fiber category," the official said.

Once the crop is harvested, bulk quantities enter into the processing units for processing under the supervision of the agency.

In order to meet the lab standards KSSOCA inspectors will draw the sample for analysis of germination, physical purity and moisture test and send it to the seed testing laboratory and results declared by the STL.

"Once the lot passes in the field and lab standards seed certification labels will be issued and release order will be given to the producers for commercial sale," the official said.

Market access and fair pricing

For the farmer, the benefit is twofold. First, they are protected from stunted crops or germination failure. Second, through a rate contract system, the government procures these certified seeds via tenders and distributes them back to farmers through Raitha Samparka Kendras (RSK) at subsidised rates.

Challenges: germination and counterfeits

The agency's primary challenge remains stunted growth and dissimilarities in seeds. By maintaining the SATHI Portal (Seed Authenticity, Traceability and Holistic Inventory), KSSOCA is now moving all certification online to track every bag of seed from the lab to the land, curbing the menace of counterfeit seeds that often fail to sprout.

Farmers interested in seed certification or organic certification can reach out to the Karnataka State Seed and Organic Certification Agency, Opposite Baptist Hospital, Bellary Road, Hebbal, Phone: 9448096066. Website: ksssoca.karnataka.gov.in

---

Government of Karnataka.
(PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DEPTARTMENT)
Office of the Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division Bidar.

No: EE/PRED/BDR/TS-2/2025-26/2512 Date: 06.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division Bidar invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers, for 21 works approved under various schemes as per KW-01, 02, 03 & 04 in One & Two Cover System. Amount put to tender for the works are Minimum **Rs. 8,45,796.60** (Rupees Eight Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Six and paise sixty only) & Maximum **Rs. 173,56,392.67** (Rupees One Crore Seventy Three Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Two and paise sixty seven only) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz. http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Tenders must be submitted through KPPP portal on **09.03.2026 to or before 16.00 hours up to 18.03.2026** Technical Bid will be opened on 2**0.03.2026 & Financial Bid will be opened on 25.03.2026 respectively.** Further any other information can be seen from the KPPP portal or can be had from the undersigned.
(Work Indent No:- 18275/CALL-2, 25187, 24728, 25191, 25192, 24965, 21596/CALL-4, 21592/CALL-4, 21105/CALL-4, 21104/CALL-4, 23317/CALL-4, 23310/CALL-3, 24727, 24725, 24968, 25059, 25293, 25393, 25395, 25397 & 25424).

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E.Division Bidar.

DIPR/Bidar/354/KSMC&A/2025-26

Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences Madikeri
(Government of Karnataka- Autonomous Institution
Ph-08272-298220 Website: www.kimskodagu.karnataka.gov.in

No: **DME/2025-26/IND2135** Date: 06-03-2026

Short Term Tender Notification

Under Signed invites e-tender notification in two bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal **https:kppp.karnataka.gov.in** GOK, for the SUPPLY OF LABORATORY CHEMICALS AND CONSUMABLES TO IPHL LAB KoIMS Teaching Hospital Madikeri. last date for upload is 13-03-2026 for more information contact e-procurement portal or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Director and Dean
KoIMS Madikeri

THE MYSORE PAPER MILLS LIMITED
Paper Town, BHADRAVATI-577 302, KARNATAKA.
CIN: L99999KA 1936SGC000173 (03.06.2014)
Phone: +91 9448218706 E-mail: dirforestsmpm@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS FOR SALE/DISPOSAL OF DEBARKED EUCALYPTUS PULP WOOD FULL QUANTITY

e- Portal & MPM Ref Tender No.: MPML/2025-26/SE0049 DTD. 04.03.2026 **Material Description:** Debarked Eucalyptus/ Euca-Pellita **Quantity in MT:** 10000 **Last date & time for Bid submission:** 02.04.2026 17.00 HRS.

MPM intends to sell of above said Pulpwood is being tendered through e-Procurement portal of Government of Karnataka: https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Cost of document: As per e- portal norms. Blank tender documents can be downloaded from e- procurement portal; http://mpm.karnataka. Gov.in. website. Any changes/ amendments to this tender will be published in the e-procurement portal/ MPM website only

Sd/- Director(Forests)i/c

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/48/03/1972

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi, Pin Code.585 102.
CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030436 E-mail : seeprojectsgescom@gmail.com

No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/SEE(Proj)/EEE(Proj)/AEE/AE-2/CC/ABC/2025-26/90724-40 Date: 07-03-2026

:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited invites tender for the work of **"Replacement of existing HT overhead lines(bare conductors) by HT Covered Conductor and LT overhead lines(bare conductors) by LT AB-Cables in 16 O&M Divisions on Partial Turnkey Basis (Poles for intermediate/stud/ DPs will be supplied by GESCOM)"** including supply of all Materials, Erection, testing and commissioning under competitive bidding process from eligible bidders through **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.**

Division Wise Tender Enquiry Nos. 1) Bid No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/SEE(proj)/623 in O&M Div-I Kalaburagi, 2) Bid No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/ SEE(proj)/624 in O&M Div-II Kalaburagi, 3) Bid No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/ SEE(proj)/625 in O&M Div. Sedam, 4) Bid No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/ SEE(proj)/626 in O&M Div. Yadgir, 5) Bid No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/ SEE(proj)/627 in O&M Div. Shorapur, 6) Bid No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/ SEE(proj)/628 in O&M Div. Bidar, 7) Bid No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/ SEE(proj)/629 in O&M Div. Humnabad, 8) Bid No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/ SEE(proj)/630 in O&M Div. Raichur Urban, 9) Bid No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/ SEE(proj)/631 in O&M Div. Raichur Rural, 10) Bid No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/ SEE(proj)/632 in O&M Div. Sindhanoor, 11) Bid No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/ SEE(proj)/633 in O&M Div. Gangavati, 12) Bid No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/ SEE(proj)/634 in O&M Div. Koppal, 13) Bid No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/ SEE(proj)/635 in O&M Div. Hospete Urban, 14) Bid No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/ SEE(proj)/636 in O&M Div. H.B. Halli, 15) Bid No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/ SEE(proj)/637 in O&M Div. Ballari Urban, 16) Bid No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/ SEE(proj)/638 in O&M Div. Ballari Rural.

The projects cost (excluding GST) for all individual 16 O&M Divisions along with bid documents will be available in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **11.03.2026,** the prospective bidders can obtain further details from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy., (Operations),
Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1152/KSMC&A/2025-26

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)
Finance Department, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

NOTICE

1. Aggregate Amount: Total Rs.10,000 crore 1. Rs.2,000 crore 14-Year Tenure. **2.** Rs.2,000 crore 10-Year 6-Month Tenure. **3.** Rs.2,000 crore - Re-issue of 7.38% SGS 2034. **4.** Rs.2,000 crore - Re-issue of 7.31% SGS 2033. **5.** Rs.2,000 crore - Re-issue of 7.48% SGS 2037.

2. Method of Issue : By auction, through RBI (PDO), Mumbai

3. Date of auction : March 10, 2026

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bangalore. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in.**

Sd/- (Ikram Shariff)
Joint Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources), Finance Department

DIPR/CP/5986/Zen/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru – 560 001.
Tel: 080-22215601, 22211246, Fax:080-22215602

No: DYES/AP/ES/287/2025-26 Date: 07.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E- Procurement Portal)

Subject:- The Assistasnt Executive Engineer, Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, State Youth Centre , Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore-560 001, KARNATAKA INDIA invites Tender to take up the various works at ,Vijayapura & Mandya, & districts, Karnataka through.

Sl. No	Particulars	Tender Amount	EMD	Last Date and Time for Submission of Bid	Last Date and Time for Opening of technical bid
1	Construction of synthetic Basket ball and volley ball courts & other development works at sports hostel Vijayapura	Rs 2,36,70,575 Lakhs	Rs 3,55,059	26.03.2026 time16.00 Hrs	27.03.2026 time 16.30 Hrs
2	Construction of Multipurpose Indoor Stadium at The University of agriculture science Madya District Under Khelo India Scheme	Rs 11,48,64,52 6.67 Lakhs	Rs 1148681 00	13.03.2026 time16.00Hrs	14.03.2026 time 16.30 Hrs

The Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal. Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address.

Sd/-
Assistant Executive Engineer
Department of Youth Empowerment and sports
[Tender Inviting Authority]

DIPR/CP/6085/Shirdi Sai/2025-26

Public Works Department,
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD Bengaluru Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001. Ph: **080-22133370,**
website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home**

Short-Term Tender Notification
No. 64/2025-26 Date: 07.03.2026

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD **NELAMANGALA Sub Division** under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification is Published for 01 works (Rs. 185.00 Lakhs). Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP Portal.**

Eligible contractors interested in tendering for the work may apply for the tender through **KPP Portal.**

1. Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal **on or before 4.00 PM on 16.03.2026.**
2. The opening of tenders through KPP Portal **on 17.03.2026 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be intimated.

For more details contact this office.

DIPR/DD-CP/6077/KSMCA/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Malleshwaram Zone,
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division,
BWCC Building, No.161, 1st Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Block,
Near Old Navarang Bus Stop, Rajajinagara, Bengaluru - 560010.

No:EE(RNR)/KPPP/TEND/06/2025-26/Call-3 Date: 06-03-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Single Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division, BWCC, Bengaluru invites Tender from eligible Tenderers registered in GBA or equivalent registration with PWD / CPWD or any State Government Organization for the Work detailed below.
(Standard Tender Documents - KW-1)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1	Providing of New Entrance Arch to Bhovi Colony Basaveshwara Nagara in Ward No. 133, Basaveshwara Nagara. **(SC). (Call-3) - Amount Put to Tender (Excluding GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 21.18, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 07-03-2026, 17.30 Hours onwards. 2)** Date of for Receipt of Tender Queries: **12-03-2026. 3)** Last Date and Time for Uploading the Tender Documents: **16-03-2026 upto 17.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **17-03-2026 at 17.30 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Approval of Technical Bid through KPP Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division,
Malleshwaram Zone, BWCC.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.
E-mail-dloyadgiri123 at.gmail.com Ph-08473-251312

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಜಿ.ಆ.ಕು.ಕ/ಅ/ಯಾ/ ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಬಿ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/05 /2025–26 ದಿ:.05–03–2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ : ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ :

ವಿಷಯ: ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಅಂಧತ್ವ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೃಷ್ಟಿದೋಷವುಳ್ಳ ಶಾಲಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಯೋವೃದ್ಧರಿಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡಕ ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು.

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಅಂಧತ್ವ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗಾಗಿ ದೃಷ್ಟಿದೋಷವುಳ್ಳ ಶಾಲಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಯೋವೃದ್ಧರಿಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡಕ ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯಲಯದಿಂದ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಹಂತದ ಘಟನಾವಳಿಗಳನ್ನು ಜರುಗಿಸಲು ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತ ಕಾಲಬದ್ಧ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ಶಾಲಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕನ್ನಡಕ	ವೃದ್ಧರ ಕನ್ನಡಕ
1	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	DHFWS/2025-26-IND1921-2	DHFWS/2025-26-IND1920-2
2	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	02-03-2026	02-03-2026
3	ಟೆಂಡರನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿದ ಮೊತ್ತ	1757000.00	1155000.00
4	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ	43925.00	28875.00
5	ಆನ್ ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬುಕ್ ಲೆಟ್ ಆಸಕ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾರರಿಗೆ ಒದಗಿಸುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು	02-03-2026	02-03-2026
6	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಪಲೋಡ್ ಕಡೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	10-03-2026	10-03-2026
7	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	11-03-2026	11-03-2026
8	ಮಾದರಿ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ [ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹರಾದ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರು ಮಾತ್ರ]	12-03-2026	12-03-2026
9	ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	13-03-2026	13-03-2026

ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರ/578/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಎ/2025–26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜನಗರ
ಹಾಸನ–ಮೈಸೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. ದೂ : 08223–262352,
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: apmckrnagar@gmail.com

ಸಂ:ಕೃಉಮಾಸ(ಕೃರಾನ)/915/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.03.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜನಗರ ಇವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯಿದೆ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧವಾಗಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ, ಸುತ್ತೋಲೆಗಳಂತೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಹಾಗೂ Standard Tender Documents KW-3 Clause 3 (with latest amendments) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹರಿರುವ ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–II(A)ರ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. (ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2ಎ ರವರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊಬಲಗು (ಶೇಕಡ 1.00 ರಂತೆ (ಇ ಪೇಮೆಂಟ್)	ಕೆಲಸ ಪೂರೈಸಲು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಅವಧಿ	ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ	ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಸಿಂಗ್ ಫೀ (ಇ ಪೇಮೆಂಟ್)
1	ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸಮಿತಿ, ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜನಗರ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಉಗ್ರಾಣ ನಿಗಮ ಬಳಿ ಉಳಿದಿರುವ ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಚರಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್)	69,68,504–08	69,700=00	03 ತಿಂಗಳು (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ)	ಲೋ.ಇ. ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯು–3, ಕ್ಲಾಸ್–3 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹರಿರುವ ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–II(A)ರ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು	ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಂತೆ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳಾಪಟಿ: ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **13/03/2026 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 02–30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ,** (2) ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **16/03/2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 04–00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ,** (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ; **18/03/2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **23/03/2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** (5) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಷರತ್ತು, ನಿಭಂದನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ. ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/1797/ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ/2025–26

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560 064
web site: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

E - TENDER NOTICE No. : RWF/M/M&P/OT/25-26/PNG-TPHO-MR dated: 03/03/2026

e - TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website http://www.ireps.gov.in (Works). **Sl. No. 1 Tender No. RWF/M/M&P/OT/25-26/PNG-TPHO-MR dated: 03/03/2026 Name of the work Fabrication, Installation, Testing & commissioning of PNG Pipe line to Tube pre- heating stands in Mould room Estimated Cost in Rs.** 15,19,604 **Bid Security (EMD) in Rs.** 30,400/- **Date & Time of Closing of Tenders** 02/04/2026 at 10.30 Hrs **Completion Period** 6 months This tender notice can be viewed on our website **"www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in ".**

DY. CME/W-II

Extreme temperatures doubling risks of preterm birth: Study

It warns pregnant women exposed to high heat in summer and low temp in winter

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Exposure to high temperatures in the summer and cold days for an extended period in winter doubles the risk of preterm birth — live births before 37 weeks of gestation — among pregnant women, a new study has found, noting that such adverse effects are most prominently seen across the Indo-Gangetic plains (IGP).

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Public Health, Bhubaneswar, showed that pregnant women exposed to higher average temperatures for the better part of their gestation period ran a 2.26-fold increased risk of preterm birth compared to those who experienced an ambient temperature of 25-27° Celsius.

Similar preterm birth outcomes were also seen in the winters, particularly among the poor, even though the IGP is not known for harsh winters. This, the researchers said, was due to air pollution seen across the northern plains in winter.

"The adverse impact due to high temperature may hold for other parts of the country, but the winter season is unique to the Indo-Gangetic plains due to air pollution caused by temperature inversion," Ambarish Dutta, who led the IIPH team, told *DH*.

While examining how climate changes influenced public health, Dutta, his IIPH colleagues Aisurya Aswini Samal, Jagyenswar Rath, and Jyoti Ghosal, alongside Subha Shankar Das from Mamta Health Institute for Mother and Child, Delhi, looked into meteorological conditions and their role in pregnancy outcomes.

They also studied how people from different socio-economic conditions coped with such changing weather patterns.

Using data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, the researchers tracked the monthly average temperatures during the gestational periods of 36,851 women across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and parts of West Bengal, and analysed their pregnancy outcomes.

They found the lowest risk of preterm birth for those expecting mothers whose average gestational temperature (AGT) exposure was between 25.9° C and 26.5° C.

When the AGTs rose to 27°-30° C or dipped to 21°-25° C, the risk of preterm birth was 2.26 times the baseline level.

Every year, India accounts for 30.2 lakh preterm births — nearly 10% of all births and over 20% of the global total of such births.

The researchers said even two-three weeks of exposure to temperatures above 40° C during gestation could elevate the AGT to around 30° C, while exposure to temperatures below 10° C for similar periods could lower the AGT to 21° C.

The study has appeared in the journal "BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth".

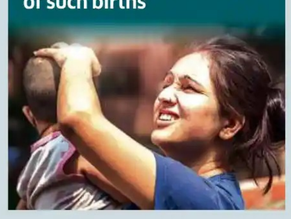
Research results

Preterm births are live **births before 37 weeks** of gestation

Researchers tracked **monthly average temperatures** during gestational periods of **36,851 women** across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and parts of West Bengal

Lowest risk of preterm birth for expecting mothers whose average gestational temperature (AGT) exposure was 25.9°-26.5° C

Every year, India sees 30.2 lakh preterm births – nearly 10% of all births and over 20% of the global total of such births



When the AGTs rose to 27°to 30° C or dipped to 21°-25° C, the risk of preterm birth was 2.26 times the baseline level

Over 52,000 Indians returned from Gulf: MEA

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Saturday said it is continuously monitoring the evolving situation in West Asia, especially in the context of the safety of its citizens stranded in the region.

In a late-night statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said more than 52,000 Indians have returned to the country following the partial opening of the airspace across the region. It also urged all Indian nationals in the region to follow the guidelines of the local authorities and the advisories issued by the Indian missions.

The safety and welfare of Indian nationals abroad is of utmost priority to the government, and it remains engaged with the governments across the region to work towards facilitating all those in need of assistance, the MEA said.

It said Indian missions in the region have set up 24x7 helplines to assist Indians.

3 tigers, 50 bison among 103 likely to be relocated to J'khand from MP

RANCHI, PTI: The Jharkhand forest department is expecting NTCA nod this month to its proposal of relocating three tigers, 50 bison, and 50 sambar deer from Madhya Pradesh to Palamau Tiger Reserve and planning to start the process after the summer season, an official said on Saturday.

The relocation aims to augment the population of tigers and bison, which were once abundant in the reserve forest in Latehar district, he said.

"The state forest department expects to receive approval for its relocation proposal from the National Tiger Conservation Authority this month," PTR Deputy Director Prajesh Jena said.

The PTR authority has also submitted a proposal for signing a MoU with the Madhya Pradesh government for relocation of the wild animals, which will be finalised soon after receiving the NTCA nod, he said.

"Once the NTCA approves our proposal, an MoU with the Madhya Pradesh government will be finalised. We expect the green signal to our proposal this month after the NTCA technical committee meeting," Jena said.

Two media persons held for filming Iranian ship at Kochi port

KOCHI, PTI: Two media persons and a boat driver were arrested for allegedly trespassing into the high security zone of Cochin Port harbour here and taking photos and videos of an Iranian ship on Saturday, police said.

They allegedly took photographs and videos of the Iranian ship that anchored here as part of a diplomatic decision of the Government of India for life-saving purposes, police said.

The Harbour police here arrested the reporter of a prominent TV channel, its cameraman and the speed boat driver under a case registered based on the information received.

According to the FIR, the accused unlawfully trespassed into the Southern Coil Berth (SCB), a high-security area of the Cochin Port harbour in Willington Island, at about 7.50 am.

India a net security provider in Indian Ocean: Jaishankar

Cites presence of foreign military bases in region

NEW DELHI, DHNS

India is a net security provider in the Indian Ocean, but it does not override the realities of the region, said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday amid the row over the recent sinking of an Iranian Navy ship by the United States Navy in Sri Lanka's Exclusive Economic Zone.

Jaishankar also said that other nations had deployed military capabilities in the region.

"Please understand the reality of the Indian Ocean. Diego Garcia has been in the Indian Ocean for the last five decades. The fact that there are foreign forces based in Djibouti happened in the early first decade of this century. Hambantota came up during this period," he said at the Raisina Dialogue — a conference on geopolitics and geo-economics — in New Delhi to a question on the US military offensive against the Iranian ship.

Diego Garcia, the largest of the Chagos Islands, has hosted a joint British-American military base since the 1970s. Japan, China, Italy, and the US have military bases in Djibouti.

The Hambantota International Port in southern Sri Lanka has been a major strategic asset for China, which got it on a 99-year lease starting 2017.

India refrained from condemning Israel and the US' missile attack on Iran, which killed the latter's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, and the sinking of IRIS Dena, which was returning after participating in the the Indian Navy-hosted multilateral naval exercise Milan 2026.

Jaishankar also confirmed that India had allowed the docking of another Iranian Navy vessel, IRIS Lavan, in Kochi this week.

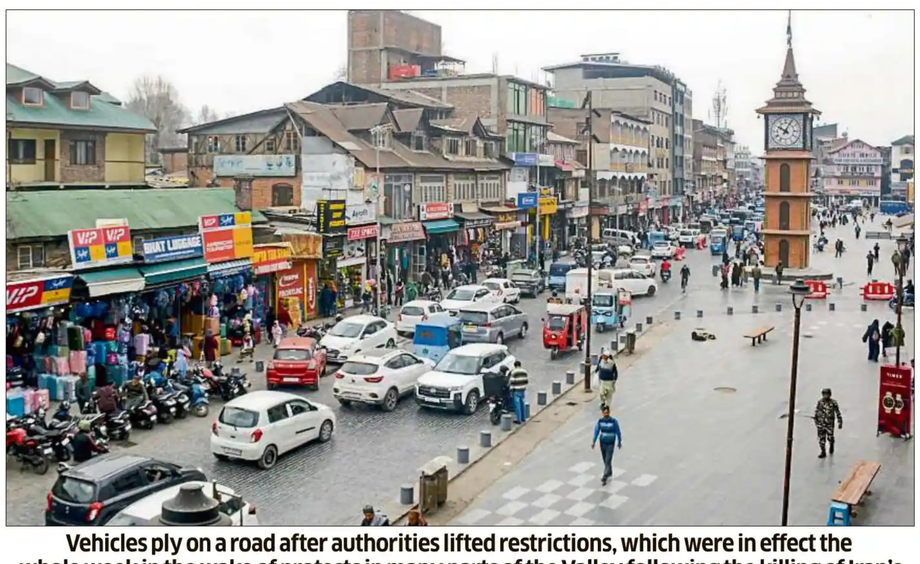
"We got a message from the Iranian side that one of the ships, which presumably was closest to our borders at that point in time, wanted to come into our port. They were reporting that they were having problems. On March 1, we said – You can come in. It took them a few days to sail in, and then they docked in Kochi," he said.

Jaishankar also stressed adherence to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

"For us, when this ship wanted to come in and that too in difficulties, it was the humane thing to do. We were guided by that principle.

The rise of countries is determined by the countries. The rise of India will be determined by India. It will be determined by our strength, not by the mistakes of others.

S JAISHANKAR
External Affairs Minister



Vehicles ply on a road after authorities lifted restrictions, which were in effect the whole week in the wake of protests in many parts of the Valley following the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in Srinagar, on Saturday. PTI

India looks to Oz, Canada for gas supplies amid Gulf crisis

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

To meet the domestic fuel demand amid the escalating West Asia crisis, the Centre is exploring alternative countries like Australia, Canada and others to import additional natural gas.

Citing the ongoing US-Israel conflict with Iran leading to the closure of the key shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz, sources said the passage is not the only route for India's crude imports, adding that the days of dependence on a single maritime choke point are long over.

Supplies from Russia, West Africa, the Americas, Central Asia, and non-Gulf West Asian routes allow for flexible adjustments if any single corridor is disrupted. This diversification ensures that impacts from any one route can be managed effectively, said an official in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

"Apart from Gulf countries, we source crude from wherever it is available, competitively priced, and deliverable, and we will continue to do so," a senior government official said.

India is in touch with major global crude oil and gas suppliers as well as international energy institutions such as the International Energy Agency and the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, sources said.

Only around 40% of India's crude imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz, while about 60% are routed through other supply routes that remain unaffected, they said.

India also recently entered into new energy supply arrangements with partners such as the US and the UAE to ensure stable long-term supplies.

Over the last decade, India's strategic oil diplomacy has expanded its supplier base from 27 to 40 countries across six continents. The days when India's energy security rose and fell with conditions in a single maritime choke point are over, sources said.

Fuel prices have skyrocketed in many countries ever since the West Asian conflict started. Petrol prices rose by about 55% in Pakistan, 22% in Germany, 19% in France, and 11.54% in the US during the same period, said the official, adding that India's petrol prices increased by less than 1%.

'Sweat of people extracted': Oppn flays govt over LPG price hike

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Opposition on Saturday pounded on the government over the hike in domestic and commercial LPG prices, with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleging that the dispensation, which claims that everything is fine, is extracting the sweat of people, citing inflation.

While Mahila Congress held a protest against the hike in Delhi, Trinamool Congress supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said activists of the women's wing of her party will stage protests against the "anti-people" measure on Women's Day on Sunday.

Kharge posted on X, "A hike of Rs 60 in domestic LPG cylinders; a profit of Rs 115 earned in commercial LPG cylinders. First, the benefits of lower international prices were snatched from the public; now, the sweat of the people is being extracted under the burden of inflation. The Modi government, which boasts 'sab changa si' (everything is fine) when war breaks out, is helpless in providing adequate oil, gas, fertiliser."

Meanwhile, Mamata said the Modi government is "arbitrarily hiking" LPG prices without making alternative arrangements in an "anti-people manner". Asking Trinamool women's wing state president Chandrima Bhattacharya to organise protest rallies on International Women's Day, she said, "If needed, wear black clothes. We will protest democratically in a peaceful manner."

"They increased the LPG price by Rs 60. Then they put a lock-in period of 21 days for booking gas. What will people do if their cylinder is exhausted? Should they not have thought about these issues beforehand? They have also reduced the kerosene quota... Why did you not plan all this earlier?" she alleged.

BJP: US sought India's help to stabilise global energy supplies

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP on Saturday pushed back against the Congress's criticism that India had been "insulted" after the United States said it had "allowed New Delhi to buy Russian oil", saying Washington had in fact sought India's help to stabilise global energy supplies.

The ruling party cited remarks by US Energy Secretary Chris Wright, who said Washington had reached out to India to help ease pressure on the global oil market.

Sharing a video of Wright's remarks on X, the BJP said the comments made it clear that the US had approached India to play a role in addressing the global energy situation rather than dictating terms to New Delhi. "We reached out to our friends in India and said, Buy that oil and bring it into your refineries," Wright said in an interview, referring to Russian crude oil that was already on ships around Southern Asia.

The BJP said the remarks showed that the US had sought India's assistance to ease refinery pressure and stabilise oil prices globally. "Shutting down the Opposition propaganda and outpour, US Energy Secretary Chris Wright puts it on record that the US reached out to India for help in easing global refinery pressure and stabilising oil prices," the party said in its post, calling it an acknowledgement of India's growing role in global energy stability.

T'gana: 130 Maoists surrender with huge arms cache

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

In a landmark mass surrender, the first of its scale in recent times in Telangana, at least 130 Maoists laid down their arms before Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday in Hyderabad and joined the mainstream.

The Maoists handed over 124 sophisticated weapons at the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in the CM's presence.

As part of the process, they also surrendered 5,205 rounds of live ammunition of various calibres — the highest quantity and quality of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) arms in recent times nationwide.

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy looks at a weapon after as many as 130 Maoists surrendered before him, in Hyderabad, on Saturday. PTI

The cache also included one light machine gun (LMG) and 31 AK-47 rifles.

This surrender has significantly weakened the CPI (Maoist)'s operational and combat capabilities in the region, effectively ending the prolonged insurgency in the Central Regional Bureau (CRB) area.

Only seven active underground cadres from Telangana now remain in formations across the country.

Of these, just one Area Committee member operates in the Telangana State Committee, said Telangana DGP B Shivadhar Reddy, adding that the rest are in other states, including Chhattisgarh.

Notably, two of the three remaining CPI (Maoist) Central Committee members hail from Telangana.

The CM urged all Maoist Central Committee members, including veteran Muppala Lakshmana Rao alias Ganapati, to surrender, embrace mainstream life, and contribute to Telangana's reconstruction.

Addressing pending cases against Maoists, Revanth Reddy said the state government was prepared to revoke them within legal bounds and form a review committee, if needed.

TN fast-tracks Parandur airport project; activists cry foul

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Despite protests, the Tamil Nadu government has given "special project" status to the proposed greenfield airport for Chennai in the Parandur Kanchipuram district. This could enable faster land consolidation, streamlined acquisition processes, and quicker approvals.

The move has drawn criticism from environmental activists, who fear the classification would help the government expedite the project by allowing construction over waterbodies and dry lands.

As many as 1,700 acres of the nearly 3,800 acres needed for the project have already been purchased from individual landowners across 13 revenue villages for the airport construction, while the government already owns 1,900 acres of the total 5,746 acres required.

Land acquisition for the project picked up in June last year after the government announced Rs 0.15-1.10 crore-per-acre compensation.

However, Ekanapuram village residents, where the proposed airport runway will be built, have strongly opposed the project since August 2022, delaying land acquisition. They refuse to relocate, as about 600 of the 1,000 houses slated for demolition belong to that village alone.

To be developed at Rs 27,000 crore, the airport will feature two runways, a dedicated cargo village, and an aero city. In a gazette notification issued recently, the government notified the "Parandur New Greenfield Airport Project as a Special Project under the Tamil Nadu Land Consolidation (for Special Projects) Act, 2023.

The designation enables faster land consolidation, streamlined acquisition processes, and quicker approvals for large infrastructure developments. It allows the government to consolidate contiguous land parcels of at least 100 hectares that contain such water bodies and allocate them for commercial, industrial, or infrastructure ventures classified as "Special Projects".

GROUND REALITY

- 3,800 acres of land needed to be purchased for the project
- 1,700 acres already been purchased from individual landowners across 13 revenue villages
- Government already owns 1,900 acres of the total 5,746 acres required for the project

HC acquits Dera chief in journalist murder case

CHANDIGARH, PTI: The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Saturday acquitted Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in the 2002 murder case of a journalist, seven years after he was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in the case by a special CBI court.

Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh

The 58-year-old Dera chief is serving a 20-year sentence in Rohtak's Sunaria jail for the rape of two of his disciples.

In May 2024, the HC had overturned another special CBI court order and acquitted Ram Rahim and four others in the 2002 murder of the sect's former manager, Ranjit Singh.

Journalist Ram Chander Chhatrapati was shot outside his house in October 2002 in Haryana's Sirsa after his newspaper 'Poora Sach' published an anonymous letter narrating the alleged sexual exploitation of women followers in Sirsa.

The journalist later succumbed to injuries, and a case was registered in which Ram Rahim was named as a conspirator.

ECOLOGICAL WORRY

Legal protection for 23,000 Maha wetlands stuck in red tape

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Despite ground-truthing by the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), the process of granting legal protection to more than 23,000 wetlands in Maharashtra remains mired in bureaucratic delays, information received under the RTI Act revealed.

More than two decades after India prepared the satellite-based National Wetland Atlas, official notification of these ecosystems is still a far cry, environmental watchdog NatConnect Foundation said, citing information obtained under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

Wetlands provide vital ecological services like flood control, groundwater recharge, climate regulation, waste treatment and biodiversity habitat. Unless wetlands are formally notified and protected under law, these fragile ecosystems will continue to shrink under growing development pressure, said Nandakumar Pawar, director of Sagar Shakti.

"The scientific data already exists," said B N Kumar, director of NatConnect Foundation. "What is missing is the political will to notify and protect these wetlands before they disappear."

Kumar said it was alarming that not a single wetland in Maharashtra has yet been formally notified despite extensive scientific mapping. The data was prepared by Isro's Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad, which compiled the National Wetland Inventory and Assessment (NWIA) using multi-date satellite imagery from 2006–07 in collaboration with state remote sensing centres and academic institutions.

However, the wetland survey and documentation prepared by NCSCM over the past two years will now be referred to district administrations for further verification before the notification process can proceed, according to the state's Environment and Climate Change Department.

TIME AND TIES | Their closeness could have ramifications even at the national level

BJD-Cong bonhomie signals political shift in Odisha

SANDEEP SAHU

It was nothing short of a political earthquake. In a political development that would have been unthinkable even a fortnight ago, BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik shared space with Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Bhakta Charan Das and other senior Congress leaders last Thursday. The occasion was the filing of nomination by BJD candidate Santrupta Mishra and "common candidate" Datteswar Hota — supported by the Congress and the CPM — for the March 16 Rajya Sabha elections.

What followed this new-found bonhomie was even more surprising: Congress brass — including Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Ramachandra Kadam, AICC Odisha in-charge Ajay Kumar Lallu, and Narasingha Mishra — were present at the closed-door meeting where Naveen addressed his party's MLAs on the Rajya Sabha polls.

Many, including senior BJD leaders, were taken aback by this unusual show of bonhomie between two parties that have been at loggerheads virtually since the BJD's birth in 1997.

The presence of Lallu, in particular, suggested that the Congress' move to join hands with the BJD had the party high command's blessings, and was not a one-off move just for the Rajya Sabha elections.

Naveen himself did not categorically rule out the possibility of a long-term understanding with the Congress with his cryptic comment: "Time always tells future history." If such an understanding does come about, it would mark a significant political realignment – not just in Odisha, but also at the national level. After all, ever since Narendra Modi came to power at the Centre in 2014, Naveen and his party have been steadfast in their support for the BJP-led NDA government there, while repeatedly rebuffing all overtures from the Congress-led Opposition alliance.

FOES TURNED FRIENDS?

- Cong and BJD appear to be primed for an alliance, in a move that was unthinkable even a decade ago
- This is a marked departure from the BJD's support to the BJP since Narendra Modi came to power in the Centre in 2014
- One factor suspected to be behind the move is the BJP's attempts to poach BJD lawmakers
- In Odisha, the Congress has been on the fringes since 1997, while the BJD is only recently out of power
- Now that the two parties are coming together, their immediate task appears to be to ensure victory of their 'common candidate' in the upcoming RS polls

BJD chief Naveen Patnaik with party candidates Santrupt Misra and Datteswar Hota during the filing of their nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha polls, in Bhubaneswar on March 5. PTI

Question of survival

The BJD severing ties with the BJP and mending fences with the Congress appeared to be a survival strategy amid reports of the saffron party trying to poach its MLAs and engineer a split. Naveen has clearly understood that any further truck with the BJP could cost the BJD dear, given the saffron party's thinly-veiled objective of weakening — and finishing, if possible — regional parties, especially in view of the developments first in Maharashtra and now in Bihar.

On its part, the BJP, too, has realised that its mutually beneficial relationship with the BJD has outlived its utility.

A day after the public display of the BJD-Congress camaraderie, Union Home Minister Amit Shah left no room for any doubt that the gloves were now well and truly off between the two erstwhile "unofficial" partners when he went hammer-and-tongs at the over-two-decade-long Naveen rule at a public meeting in Bhubaneswar.

With local-body elections in the state due in less than a year, both the BJD and the Congress have realised that it's the right time to come to an understanding to stall the BJP juggernaut in the state.

The BJD is not quite the force it was when it was in power, while the Congress has remained on the fringes ever since it lost power in 1997. It, thus, makes ample political sense for the two to come together with other smaller, like-minded parties to stop the BJP.

Fundamental contradiction

However, the problem with the proposed alliance is that while the leaders of both parties are for it, their cadres are irreconcilably opposed to each other. Congress workers on the ground are wary of joining hands with the party that they believe has done everything in its power to weaken their party. Meanwhile, anti-Congressism is in BJD workers' DNA.

For nearly three decades till 2000, politics in Odisha was a two-way fight between the Congress and what can be categorised as the "Janata parivar" — first the Lok Dal, then the Janata Party, and then the Janata Dal — under the leadership of the late Biju Patnaik.

The BJD, the latest reincarnation of that "Janata parivar", was born out of the Janata Dal after Biju died in 1997, and promised to rid the state of Congress misrule. Hence, any truck with the Congress is anathema to them.

The long-term challenge for the leaders of the two foes-turned-friends is thus how to bring their workers on board. However, the immediate task is to ensure the victory of their "common candidate" for the fourth Rajya Sabha seat from Odisha, for which no party has the numbers.

(The author is a Bhubaneswar-based journalist)

TVK chief Vijay during an event marking the International Women's Day Celebration in Mamallapuram on Saturday. PTI

Vijay woos women voters with cash aid, freebie promises

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Joining the race to woo women voters this election, actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) on Saturday made a slew of promises, including Rs 2,500 monthly assistance to women under the age of 60, six free gas cylinders per family for a year, and eight grams of gold and silk sarees for women during their marriage.

Addressing a party event on the occasion of International Women's Day, Vijay also announced free travel for women in all buses across the state, besides a slew of other measures.

The announcements are in complete contrast to the stand that TVK took in the past— its leader C G Arunraj had asked women to sacrifice the Rs 1,000 monthly assistance provided by the DMK government for good governance by Vijay.

He said his government, if voted to power, will provide Rs 2,500 monthly financial assistance to women family heads up to age 60, excluding government employees, and six free LPG cylinders per year to ease household expenses and 8 grams of gold and a high-quality silk saree as a ceremonial gift.

He also announced Rs 15,000 as annual assistance to every mother/guardian of school-going children to prevent school dropouts due to financial issues and promised interest-free loans up to Rs 5 lakhs for self-help groups.

To combat crimes against women, Vijay also announced a separate Department for Women, Children, and the Elderly, directly under the Chief Minister's control, and a dedicated fast-track court for speedy justice in cases of crimes against women.

Vijay has just joined the ruling DMK and AIADMK in promising the moon to the people. After the AIADMK announced it will provide Rs 2,000 as monthly assistance to women, the DMK enhanced the monthly assistance from the current Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000, raising questions about the financial viability of the schemes.

Vijay's wife moves court over home

CHENNAI, DHNS: Even as the divorce proceedings are pending, actor Vijay's wife Sangeetha has approached the Chengalpattu District Court seeking an interim order allowing her to continue living in the couple's matrimonial home.

In a petition filed on February 22, Sankgeetha said she has always been a dutiful wife and mother, and alleged that Vijay was not allowing her to continue staying at the bungalow.

Breaking his silence over the issue a week after Sankgeetha's plea became public, Vijay said at a party event that he would take care of "this matter", without getting into details.

TMC to back Oppn push to remove Birla

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Trinamool Congress (TMC) MPs will support the Opposition's motion seeking the removal of Om Birla as the Lok Sabha Speaker on the directions of party chief Mamata Banerjee, said sources on Saturday.

The decision comes as a relief for the Congress, the principal mover of the notice, as the TMC had refused to sign the joint Opposition notice submitted last month. It had suggested that they should have exhausted all options before taking this extreme step.

The notice is listed for consideration in the Lok Sabha on Monday, when the ruling and Opposition sides are expected to lock horns over the conduct of the House. This will be the fourth time such a notice has come up before the House since the first Lok Sabha.

The motion cites "disallowing the Leader of the Opposition and other Opposition leaders to speak, making unwarranted allegations against women MPs belonging to the Opposition, suspending Opposition MPs for an entire session for raising issues of public concern and not rebuking ruling party members for making wholly objectionable and derogatory remarks against former PMs" as the reasons for the move.

Om Birla

It says Birla has "ceased to maintain an impartial attitude necessary to command the confidence" of all sections of the House and that he "openly espouses" the version of the ruling BJP on all controversial matters.

The Opposition on February 10 escalated its fight over the conduct of the Budget session by submitting a notice signed by 119 MPs seeking Birla's removal, accusing him of acting in a "blatantly partisan" manner.

A senior TMC leader said there was no shift in their stand, as the party had always maintained that it would support the motion, but the question was only about the timing.

The leader said TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee had made it clear that they wanted to give a few days for the Speaker to decide, and with that time long passed, they were reiterating their support for the motion.

The TMC's reluctance was then attributed to Congress' lukewarm response to its proposal to submit a notice seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.

PM praises Speaker

PM Narendra Modi on Saturday described Om Birla as an outstanding MP and "excellent" Speaker of the Lok Sabha, praising him for functioning above party lines and carrying everyone along while presiding over the House.

"Om Birla ji is as outstanding a Member of Parliament as he is an excellent Speaker of the Lok Sabha. He is fully dedicated to the Constitution, and he maintains complete allegiance to parliamentary procedures. Today, he is not a member of any one side; he is completely above party lines when it comes to ruling side and Opposition," Modi said in Kota.

Congress announces welfare guarantees for election-bound Kerala

Move is along the lines of pre-poll promises made in Karnataka & T'gana

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has announced a slew of guarantees in poll-bound Kerala, ranging from free travel for women in Kerala State Road Transport Corporation buses to Rs 1,000-per-month assistance for collegegoing girls.

Increasing the welfare pension from Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,000, health insurance coverage of Rs 25 lakh for every household in the name of former chief minister Oommen Chandy, Rs 5 lakh interest-free loans for youngsters to start businesses, and a dedicated department for the elderly are the other guarantees the top Congress leader announced, along the lines of the promises made before Assembly elections in some other states, like Karnataka.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi greets upon his arrival at Sivagiri Mutt, in Kollam, Kerala. PTI

PRE-POLL PROMISES

- Free travel for women in state transport buses
- Rs 1,000 per month for college-going girls
- Rs 25 lakh health insurance for all households
- Increase in welfare pension from Rs 2,000 to Rs 3000
- A dedicated department for the elderly
- Rs 5 lakh interest-free loans for youngsters to start businesses

Addressing the valedictory function of the statewide "Puthuyuga Yatra" (new era march) led by Opposition leader V D Satheesan in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday, Rahul also advised party leaders to work unitedly for ensuring the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF)'s victory in the elections.

Rahul accused the the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala of being pro-corporate, saying that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was being controlled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the latter was being controlled by US president Donald Trump. He also alleged a CPM-BJP nexus against the Congress.

"Why is it that Central agencies like the Enforcement Directorate are not taking any action against Vijayan or his family even as all other leaders of opposition parties in the country were being targeted? The CPM should be renamed the CJP owing to its understanding with the BJP... The Communist party should be renamed as the corporate party," said Rahul.

Alleging that the CPM government had stopped the investigation into the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple gold heist from reaching the top after some CPM leaders were held, Rahul said that strict action would be taken against those who dishonoured the shrine.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha also reiterated that Modi "betrayed" the country by signing the trade deal with the US as it would affect farmers and the common people. "A country as powerful as ours has to now take permission from the US to buy oil from Russia. Modi has signed away the vital personal data of the people," said Rahul.

BJP adalat at Kerala CM's constituency gets 3,000 pleas

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: In a bid to embarrass Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who is all set to lead the Left Democratic Front (LDF) in the forthcoming Assembly polls, BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar and Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje on Friday held a mega adalat at the Dharmadam constituency in Kannur, which Vijayan has represented over the last 10 years.

Chandrasekhar said in a social media post that over 3,000 petitions were received from the people of the constituency at the adalat.

"In the last 10 years, Vijayan could not ensure basic facilities like houses, drinking water supply and proper roads to many in his constituency. The huge turnout of people at the BJP's mega adalat reflects that the people are fed up with the bogus assurances and neglect of Dharmadam by their MLA. Hence, they are looking to change their representative," he said.

He added that the government's claims that extreme poverty in the state was eradicated would prove false at the CM's constituency itself.

Bihar may get new chief minister by April 6 after NDA Legislature Party meet

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Nitish Kumar has no immediate plans to quit as the chief minister of Bihar, even if he is elected as a Rajya Sabha member on March 16.

JD(U) sources here have confirmed that the state will get a new CM by April 5 or 6, the day the NDA convenes its Legislature Party meeting and elects its leader. "The current term of the outgoing Rajya Sabha members expires on April 9," a ruling party source confirmed to *DH*.

"When it comes to Nitish ji to take oath as a member of the Upper House in April, he will most probably quit as the CM around that time, given his track record of being a stickler for the rules," added the source.

Calculations are underway regarding the new shape of the government, with the "17+15+2+1+1" formula decided in principle for the new Cabinet.

This means the new regime, which will be headed by a BJP leader, will have 17 ministers (including the CM), the JD(U) 15 (including the DyCM's post for Nitish's son Nishant Kumar), the LJP (R) two, and the Hindustan Awam Morcha (HAM) and the Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) one each.

Incidentally, HAM supremo Jitan Ram Manjhi's son Suman Kumar and RLM chief Upendra Kushwaha's son Deepak Prakash will continue as ministers in the new government.

HARI NARAYAN SINGH
JD(U) MLA

"It is not clear whether Nishant will become the deputy CM as soon as a new government is in place or after some time. That is a decision to be taken by the top leadership in due course. I cannot say anything about the speculations that the JD(U) will insist on having two DyCMs. Yesterday, a decision was taken only on Nishant.

Speaker post tussle

The source also revealed that the BJP would like to keep the Speaker's post. It staked claim to the post in November 2025, arguing that the JD(U) already had the CM's post.

"If the BJP retains the Assembly Speaker's post while having the CM's as well, it is most likely that the JD(U) will have its own member as the Chairman of the Legislative Council," said a JD(U) source.

Voter deletions in post-SIR electoral rolls aimed at dividing Bengal: Mamata

KOLKATA, PTI: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday alleged that voter deletions in the post-SIR electoral rolls were aimed at dividing the state.

Addressing a gathering during her demonstration against the alleged arbitrary deletions, Banerjee accused the BJP of depriving Bengali-speaking people of their voting rights.

The CM continued her protest for the second consecutive day on Saturday, after she spent the night at the sit-in site at Metro Channel in central Kolkata. "Their (Election Commission and BJP) intent is to divide Bengal. The BJP is planning to take away votes by dividing Bengal and turn parts of the state into a union territory. They (BJP leaders) are subjecting Bengali-speaking people to harassment in other states and are conspiring to deprive Bengalis of their voting rights," Banerjee alleged.

The CM claimed that she saw in a tweet a day ago that Bengal and Bihar could be divided to form a Union Territory. "Let them touch Bengal if they have the guts. This is their conspiracy. They did it once in Bihar by creating Jharkhand, and now they are trying to do it again," she said.

Slamming the EC for allegedly deleting lakhs of names in the post-SIR electoral rolls, Banerjee said 36,000 votes were deleted from the Dinhata Assembly constituency.

IN THE CROSSHAIRS US pressure pushes Havana into its most severe crisis in decades

Trump's 'friendly takeover' remark puts Cuba on edge

VISHAL R CHORADIYA

US President Donald Trump has floated the idea of a "friendly takeover" of Cuba — a phrase as contradictory as it is revealing. Speaking as he departed the White House for Texas, he described a Cuban government in talks with the United States, one with "no money, no anything", and suggested Washington might step in to resolve matters. The statement came wrapped in the language of benevolence: Cuban exiles, he said, want to go home, and something "very positive" could emerge. What he left unsaid was far more consequential.

The backdrop to this rhetoric is a systematically engineered crisis. Following Trump's return to power, his administration moved aggressively to tighten the economic noose around Havana. Early 2026 saw a fresh wave of tariffs and fuel restrictions escalating the pre-existing oil embargo. Though the US Supreme Court subsequently struck down these tariffs, the damage to Cuba's battered economy had already begun to compound. Fuel shortages have triggered rolling blackouts lasting up to 20 hours a day. Food scarcity has worsened. The state, hollowed out by decades of US sanctions and its own structural failures, is struggling to perform even the most basic functions.

The most decisive blow, however, came from an unexpected direction: the severing of its lifeline from Caracas. For years, Venezuela under Nicolás Maduro supplied Cuba with tens of thousands of barrels of crude oil per day. It was a vital source of energy that kept hospitals lit, buses running, and the government's export of medical professionals — a major source of foreign exchange — operational.

That arrangement has effectively collapsed. And Cuba paid a steep price for it: Havana acknowledged that 32 of its officers were killed during the US military operation that culminated in Maduro's capture, describing their deaths as combat actions in fulfilment of official duties. With Maduro's removal from power and Trump's tight grip on Venezuelan oil exports, Cuba has lost its most critical patron.

Into this void, Trump has introduced the language of acquisition. The term "friendly takeover" is jarring precisely because it borrows from corporate vocabulary — it evokes a willing merger — not diplomacy, and certainly not sovereignty.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio, himself a Cuban-American with deep political ties to the exile community in Florida, is said to be engaged in direct discussions with Cuban representatives. The apparent American strategy is to engage selectively with Cuba's elite, offering a "friendly" transition of power in exchange for political and economic capitulation — the dismantling of its socialist system and unrestricted US corporate access to the island. One concession reportedly being dangled is allowing fuel shipments directly to private Cuban businesses — bypassing the state and weakening it from within.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel has stated that while Havana remains open to dialogue, it will not negotiate under duress. The Cuban government has framed Washington's actions as imperialism and collective punishment — language that carries particular resonance across Latin America, where the memory of US interventionism remains vivid.

The current moment recalls, uncomfortably, episodes that have left a deep imprint on Caribbean and Latin American political consciousness. The Platt Amendment of 1901 — appended to Cuba's own constitution under US pressure — gave Washington the legal right to intervene in Cuban affairs at will, a provision that stayed in force until 1934 and turned the island's early republican life into a form of supervised sovereignty. Trump's "friendly takeover" language, whatever its intended meaning, lands in a region that knows that history well — and has learned to be wary of its repetition.

The stakes, in this context, are considerable. Cuba's geopolitical significance has always exceeded its size: it has served as a testing ground for Cold War confrontation, a symbol of anti-imperial resistance, and, for Washington's critics, proof of the limits of coercive foreign policy. Overt annexationist rhetoric — even framed as friendly — risks galvanising opposition across the hemisphere. It offers adversaries — including China and Russia, both of which maintain ties with Havana — confirmation of their longstanding argument about American intentions in the region. Already, more than forty US civil society organisations have warned that intensified pressure, especially on fuel, risks creating a humanitarian catastrophe on the island.

The incident in Cuban waters this year — in which Cuba killed four people aboard a Florida-registered speedboat that entered Cuban territory and, Havana says, opened fire on soldiers — underlines how volatile the current moment is. Cuba described the passengers as armed Cuban-Americans attempting to infiltrate the island and unleash terrorism. Whatever the truth, the episode illustrates that the crisis between Washington and Havana has moved well beyond rhetoric.

History suggests that coercion rarely produces the tidy transitions it promises. Cuba has resisted American pressure for over six decades — through embargo, exile, and the slow strangulation of its economy. That cumulative weight, now compounded by the loss of its last major patron, has brought the island to a threshold it has never faced before. How close it stands to the edge of the capitulation Washington seeks, and what human costs resistance would entail, remains, for now, unclear.

(The writer is an assistant professor with the Department of Professional Studies, Christ University, Bengaluru.)

People line up in front of a bakery to buy bread during a mass blackout in Havana. REUTERS FILE

US in talks with Cuba for a deal

US President Donald Trump said on Saturday that Cuba wants to make a deal and is negotiating with him and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Reuters reports. Speaking at the "Shield of the Americas" gathering of Latin American leaders in Miami, Florida, Trump said Cuba was "at the end of the line." "They want to negotiate, and they are negotiating with (Secretary) Marco (Rubio) and myself and some others," he said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

TOGETHER WE CAN END MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
STAND UP TO RACISM
WOMEN AGAINST THE FAR RIGHT
• Reject racist lies
• Refugees are not to blame
STAND UP TO RACISM
WOMEN AGAINST THE FAR RIGHT
• Reject racist lies
• Refugees are not to blame

A group of Rangers hold placards during the Million Women Rise rally in Trafalgar Square in London on Saturday. REUTERS

47 leaders, supporters of Imran's party get 10 years' imprisonment

▸ An anti-terrorism court on Saturday sentenced 47 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders and supporters to 10 years' imprisonment and a PKR 500,000 fine each in absentia for vandalism and violence during the May 9, 2023 protest, PTI reports from Islamabad.

The countrywide protest was launched by workers and leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) following the arrest of former premier and party founder Imran Khan in Islamabad. A group of protesters also tried to storm the General Headquarters, the seat of the army chief, in Rawalpindi, resulting in vandalism of property. The case was registered at the RA Bazar Police Station, Rawalpindi, soon after the incident. The PTI supporters were charged with arson, siege, vandalism, attacks on police and damaging government property, specifically in connection with attacks on the GHQ gate, Hamza Camp, the Army Museum and Sixth Road Metro Station. The anti-terrorism court (ATC) judge in Rawalpindi, Amjad Ali Shah, issued the verdict against the 47 who had already been declared proclaimed offenders. The court found them guilty and sentenced each of them to 10 years' imprisonment, along with a fine of PKR 500,000 per convict.

Rare prints of Hindu gods on show

▸ Over 100 images of Hindu Gods, curated from collections dating 1860 to 1930, are being displayed at a special exhibition at the prestigious Metropolitan Museum of Art (The Met) here, PTI reports from New York.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is presenting the exhibition 'Household Gods: Hindu Devotional Prints, 1860–1930' on view in four rotations beginning January this year through June 27, 2027, the museum said. The exhibition presents over 100 works, focusing on acquisitions from the past decade, presented in dialogue with select works of earlier painting traditions. 'Household Gods: Hindu Devotional Prints, 1860–1930' presents the "first encyclopedic exhibition of these chromolithographic prints from the pioneering studio presses of Kolkata, Pune and Mumbai.

Trump threatens to hit 'very hard' as Iran vows defiance

US and Israeli air raids hit Tehran as conflict spreads across West Asia

TEHRAN, AFP

President Donald Trump threatened to escalate the bombing of Iran on Saturday as Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian vowed that he would never surrender, despite a fresh blitz of US and Israeli air strikes that set a Tehran airport ablaze.

Israel confirmed some of the biggest raids since the aerial bombardment of Iran began last Saturday, with a military academy, an underground command centre and a missile storage facility named as targets.

Pre-dawn AFP photos showed fire and smoke billowing from Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport, one of two that serve the capital.

"Today Iran will be hit very hard!" Trump posted on his Truth Social media platform.

"Under serious consideration for complete destruction and certain death, because of Iran's bad behaviour, are areas and groups of people that were not considered for targeting up until this moment in time."

Iranian President Pezeshkian struck a defiant tone in a speech broadcast on state TV in which he appeared to address Trump's demand on Friday for "unconditional surrender".

Iran's enemies "must take their wish for the unconditional surrender of the Iranian people to their graves," Pezeshkian replied. Iran also hit back on Saturday, demonstrating that it retains the ability to launch missiles and drones despite the relentless targeting of its military infrastructure over the last seven days.

US President Donald Trump signs a proclamation at the "Shield of the Americas" Summit in Miami on Saturday. AFP

US forms anti-cartel coalition

US President Donald Trump welcomed Latin American leaders to Florida on Saturday to announce the formation of a military coalition against drug cartels, Reuters reports from Miami. At least a dozen leaders from Central America, South America and the Caribbean joined the "Shield of the Americas".

Pak raises oil prices by Rs 55 per litre

ISLAMABAD, PTI

In the first post-Iran war economic shock, the Pakistan government has, in an overnight decision, increased petrol and high-speed diesel prices by PKR 55 per litre each, the highest-ever hike.

Addressing a press conference just before midnight, Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, and Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb announced the hike with the assurance that the country has sufficient petroleum reserves.

As a result of the hike, the ex-depot price of high-speed diesel was fixed at PKR 335.86 per litre for the coming week, up by about 20% from PKR 280.86 per litre. Likewise, the ex-depot price of petrol was revised to PKR 321.17 per litre from PKR 266.17 per litre, reflecting an increase of around 17%.

Malik said the conflict in West Asia had created uncertainty across the region, disrupting global energy supply and prices, the Dawn newspaper reported. "The fire that started in a neighbouring country has spread across the entire region. We do not know how long this crisis will continue, and there is no clear timeline for its end," he said.

He added that Pakistan was dependent on oil supplies passing through the Strait of Hormuz, which were affected by the conflict. The minister said the government would take strict action against hoarding and artificial shortages.

Israeli operation to find airman remains kills 41 in Lebanon

NABI SHEET, AFP: An Israeli special forces operation that failed to find the remains of airman Ron Arad, captured in Lebanon in 1986, killed 41 people and wounded 40 in eastern Lebanon.

Gutted buildings, torn-off roofs, munitions scattered on the ground surrounded a large crater in Nabi Sheet, the town that witnessed the operation, which involved air strikes and clashes.

"The sounds of the explosions were like something out of a movie," Nabi Sheet resident Mohammed Mussa, 55, told AFP during a media tour organised by the Iran-backed group Hezbollah. "We later understood that there was a commando operation underway."

Rescuers work at the site of a building hit by a Russian missile strike in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Saturday. REUTERS

Floods kill 23 people in Nairobi

▸ Twenty-three people died, flights were disrupted and the military was deployed as motorists in the Kenyan capital were stranded for hours on Saturday after roads were flooded following heavy overnight rains, AP/PTI reports from Nairobi.

George Seda, Nairobi's police chief, said on Saturday that some of the people drowned while others were electrocuted, warning that the death toll may rise as search and rescue operations continue. Seda also said that more than 100 vehicles were damaged, with some overturned on roadsides and in parking bays.

Kenya Airways said on Saturday that flights were disrupted, with some diverted to the coastal city of Mombasa, and that disruptions would continue for hours. The military was deployed to assist emergency rescue services.

Pak man found guilty of plot to kill Trump

NEW YORK, PTI: A Pakistani man with ties to Iran has been convicted here for plotting to assassinate US President Donald Trump and other American politicians to avenge the death of Iranian Quds Force commander Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in 2020.

Asif Raza Merchant, 48, was convicted by a federal jury in a Brooklyn court on Friday of murder for hire and attempting to commit an act of terrorism transcending national boundaries. Merchant faces up to life in prison.

US Attorney General Pamela Bondi said Merchant came to America with a plot to kill Trump and several Amercan leaders.

Chinese firm drags Panama to court

▸ A subsidiary of a Hong Kong-based company that has lost control of two critical ports on the Panama Canal said it is seeking $2 billion in compensation from Panama over its "illegal" takeover of the ports, AP/PTI reports from Hong Kong.

Panama Ports Company, a unit of Hong Kong's CK Hutchison Holdings, said in a Friday statement that it is demanding the sum under international arbitration proceedings that it had already started. Panama's government last week seized control of the Balboa and Cristobal ports on each end of the Panama Canal, a crucial waterway for maritime trade, after the country's Supreme Court declared earlier that a concession allowing the Panama Ports Company to run the pair of ports was unconstitutional. Panama Ports Company has operated the two ports since 1997 and renewed its concession in 2021 for another 25 years.

Xi urges Chinese military to strengthen political loyalty

BEIJING, PTI: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday called on the PLA to enhance political loyalty after the recent purge of the military's top brass, while a top general urged defence personnel to obey the Chinese leader's command resolutely.

Meeting a reduced delegation of military officials of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the People's Armed Police Force at the National People's Congress (NPC), China's Parliament, Xi stressed fully leveraging the unique strengths of political loyalty in the military, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

He also called for concerted efforts to modernise national defence and the armed forces in a steady, sustained manner.

This is Xi's first meeting after the removal of two senior Chinese military officials, including the highest-ranking PLA official, Gen Zhang Youxia, in January, regarded as a major purge of the PLA in recent history, sending shock waves among the rank and file.

US calls India 'good actor' after allowing Russian oil purchase

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI

SCOTT BESSENT
US treasurysecretary

"The Indians had been very good actors. We had asked them to stop buying sanctioned Russian oil this fall. They did. They were going to substitute it with US oil.

The US said it has given "permission" to India to buy Russian oil already at sea to ease supplies around the world amid tensions in West Asia.

"The world is very well supplied in oil. Yesterday, the Treasury Department agreed to let our allies in India start buying Russian oil that was already on the water," US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told Fox Business on Friday.

"The Indians had been very good actors. We had asked them to stop buying sanctioned Russian oil this fall. They did. They were going to substitute it with US oil. But to ease the temporary gap of oil around the world, we have given them permission to accept the Russian oil. We may unsanction other Russian oil," he said.

Bessent added that there are hundreds of millions of barrels of sanctioned crude on the water and, in essence, "by lifting sanctions on them, Treasury can create supply. And we are looking at that. We are going to keep a cadence of announcing measures to bring relief to the market during this conflict."

Several other Trump administration officials have also said that the US has now allowed India to buy Russian oil, months after President Donald Trump had imposed 25% tariffs on Delhi for its purchases of oil from Moscow.

Energy Secretary Chris Wright said the US is "allowing our friends in India" to take the Russian oil on ships around South Asia, refine it and move the stocks into the market quickly in order to ensure a flowing supply and ease pressure due to Iran war.

A man is detained by police officers during a rally to stop public Muslim prayer in New York City on Saturday. REUTERS

Central top-order outclasses South

BENGALURU, DHNS: South Zone suffered their first defeat in the league stages of the Senior Women's Inter-zonal One-day Trophy as they went down to Central Zone by eight wickets at the BCCI CoE Ground 2 here on Saturday.

S Subha's 72-run knock for SZ was dwarfed by the CZ's top order as four of their batters -- Nuzhat Parween (56), Varnika (52), Shipra Giri (55 not out), Muskan Malik (52 n.o.) -- hit half centuries while chasing down 220-run target in 47.2 overs.

Shani T (2/31) took both the Central wickets to fall on the day.

Brief scores: South Zone: 219/9 in 50 overs (S Subha 72, Henrietta Pereira 29, S Anusha 41; SL Meena 2-42, Minnu Mani 2-40, SS Kalal 2-34) lt to Central Zone: 220/2 in 47.2 overs (Nuzhat Parween 56, Varnika 52, Shipra Giri 55 n.o., Muskan Malik 52 n.o.). **SZ's next match:** vs West Zone (Mar 9).

Karnataka subdued by MP

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka suffered a lopsided six-wicket defeat to Madhya Pradesh in their third Elite Group B match of the Women's U-23 One-Day Trophy in Jaipur on Saturday.

Mithila Vinod (43 not out) was the sole batter to show some fight while seven K'taka batters failed to reach the double digits in a dismal show of 126 all out in 43.2 overs. Suchi Upadhyay stood out among MP bowlers with figures of 3/26.

MP batters Tamanna Choudhary (38) and Anushka Sharma (33) ensured Karnataka reached the target by the 33rd over despite a two-wicket spell by Vandita Rao (2/19).

Brief scores: Karnataka: 126 all out in 43.2 overs (Mithila Vinod 43 n.o.; Muskan Biswas 2-33, Shuchi Upadhyay 3-26) lt to Madhya Pradesh: 129/4 in 32.3 overs (Tamanna Choudhary 38, Anushka Sharma 33; Vandita K Rao 2-19). **Karnataka's next match:** March 9 in Chhattisgarh.

BADMINTON ALL ENGLAND OPEN

Lakshya seals final berth

Battling blisters & cramps, Indian ace wins gruelling semi against Lai

BIRMINGHAM, PTI

Battling painful blisters on his foot and severe cramps, a gritty Lakshya Sen overcame Canada's Victor Lai to storm into the final of the All England Open here on Saturday, moving within one win of ending India's 25-year wait for the prestigious title.

It turned out to be one of the finest matches of his career as Lakshya fought for one hour and 37 minutes before sealing a 21-16, 18-21, 21-15 win over the 21-year-old Lai, who had claimed a surprise bronze at last year's World Championships in Paris.

It will be Lakshya's second appearance in the All England final after finishing runner-up at the 2022 edition.

The 24-year old shuttler from Almora will now chase history when he takes on world No. 11 Lin Chun-yi of Chinese Taipei in the summit clash on Sunday.

Prakash Padukone (1980) and Pullela Gopichand (2001) are the only Indians to have won the All England title.

Apart from them, only Prakash Nath (1947) and Saina Nehwal (2015 runner up) came close with runner up finishes.

Lakshya displayed immense mental fortitude, resolute defence and precise strokeplay as he endured punishing rallies clocking as many as 86 shots, against the dogged Canadian.

"I was just taking one point at a time and at the start of the third set I could feel a bit of cramps in the legs and I didn't know if I can go all the way," Lakshya said after the match.

"I was trying to fight just one more point and didn't think too much ahead," he added.

"I think that was the only plan (to use smashes) in the first few shots to finish off the rally and not let the rallies go very long because he was playing very steady.

"Both of us were really tired to push the pace but I think in the end it was important that I increased the pace a little bit," the Indian said.

Lakshya Sen entered his second All England Open final with a 21-16, 18-21, 21-15 victory over Canada's Victor Lai in Birmingham on Saturday. AFP

Sutherland puts Aus in driver's seat

PERTH, PTI

Ace all-rounder Annabel Sutherland added two wickets to her hundred of rare quality to hand Australia firm control over India on Day 2 of the women's one-off day-night Test here on Saturday.

Sutherland smashed her fourth century (129 off 171 balls) in the last seven innings, third in a row, to guide Australia to 323 for an innings lead of 125 runs, and the hosts then reduced India to 105 for six at stumps. 0

Pratika Rawal (43) and Sneh Rana (14) were batting at the close.

India still trail by 20 runs, as pacer Sutherland claimed the crucial wickets of skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues.

But Sutherland first pegged India back with the bat, getting a hundred in 133 balls through a swipe off pacer Kranti Gaud's short-pitched ball that flew over stumper Richa Ghosh for a four.

The right-hander, who averages close to 90 across eight Tests, was at her best against pacers and spinners alike.

She was imperious against spin of Deepti Sharma, driving gloriously between cover and mid-off region, and when Gaud pitched it up to her, the 24-year-old was dexterous enough to clatter the bowler through mid-wicket for a boundary.

Sutherland was engaged in two vital alliances after Australia started the second day at a slightly insecure 96 for three.

Veteran Ellyse Perry (76) gave Sutherland solid company during their 128-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Brief scores: India: 198 all out and 105/6 in 29 overs (Pratika Rawal 43 n.o.; Lucy Hamilton 3-32, Annabel Sutherland 2-15) vs Australia (O/N: 96/3): 323 all out in 90.4 overs (Ellyse Perry 76, Annabel Sutherland 129; Sayali Satghare 4-50, Kranti Gaud 2-72, Deepti Sharma 2-67).

Australia's Annabel Sutherland celebrates scoring a century on day two of the one-off day-night Test against India in Perth on Saturday. X

Fusion Bangalore claim relay gold

BENGALURU, DHNS: Fusion Bangalore's quartet of Pranam D Shetty, Tejas Palaneer, Tilak Ganesh and Samahith S clocked 45.19 seconds to claim gold in the men's 4x100m relay at the inaugural Karnataka Open Relay Competition on Saturday.

Results (only gold winners):
4xRelays: Men: 100m: Pranam D Shetty, Tejas Palaneer, Tilak Ganesh, Samahith S (Fusion Bangalore), 45.19 seconds. **400m:** Shivakumar N Nulageri, Tejus H, Chaitanya Mudliar, Om Sunil Chavan (Yuva) 3:15.08.
U-20: 100m: Ayush R Devadiga, Reehan Kumar, Yashas D, Sarvajeeth (Dakshina Kannada), 42.24. **400m:** Ramu, Tharun KR, Yamanappa Madar, Dayanand D (DK), 3:33.13.
U-18: 100m: Ayush Pranjal, Advith Y Yadav, Manish B Shetty, Joystan D'Souza (Endurance Academy) 42.67. **Medley:** Ayush Pranjal, Advith, Joyston D'Souza, Dnyna Dev (EA) 1:59.48.
U-16: 100m: Rakesh Adhithya R, Varad R Naik, SV Praveen Paul, Zohraab A Krishna (Bangalore) 45.83. **Medley:** Rakesh Adhithyar, Varad R Naik, Zohrab A Krishnan, SV Praveen Paul (Kanteerava Athletic Club) 2:05.90.
U-14: 100m: Vihaan V Kumar, Vedanth Shailesh S, Ronit Shervin, Yuvaraj D Kundar (Endurance Mangalore) 48.45.
Women: 100m: Inchara NS, Padmini MG, Jyothika, Anju AS (CB) 51,57. 400m: Anju AS, Ichara NS, Padmini MG, Jyothika (CB) 4:35.23.
U-20: 100m: Akshaya Shekar, Siri N, Athena A Sanjoy, Nupura Holla (FB) 50.78. 400m: Akshya Shekar, Isha Elizabeth, Sharika V, Athena A Sanjoy (FB) 4:13.49
U-18: 100m: Sakshi Christina, Saanvi Shetty, Ridhi Chowta, Saneha Shetty (EM) 50.80. **Medley:** Sonal D, Sanvi Shetty, Sakshi Karkada, Ridhi Chowta (EA) 2:26.80.
U-16: 100m: Aastha, Manvi NK, Bhuvi Arasa, Hrishika (EM) 51.31. **Medley:** Aastha, Bhuvi Arasa, Hrithika N Poojary, Maanvi NK (EA) 2:25.36.
U-14: 100m: Nayana Chennai, Savitri Mirashi, Chamundeshwari Mirashi, Bhoomika Mori (DYES UK) 54.75.
Mixed: 100m: Chithra Das, Bhoomika Manoj, Naghul Krishna, V Vishnu (Zest AA) 49.20. **400m:** Isha Elizabeth, Pranav Manoj, Lekhana S Prasad, Hemanth Gowda MY (Bangalore Urban) 3:54.78.
U-20: 100m: Srishti V, Atheeq Ahmed, Lekhana Prasad, Hemanth Gowda MY (Guardian Academy).

M Reddy Sanjana

Karnataka shot putter Sanjana clinches gold in Open Throws event

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka shot putter M Reddy Sanjana won the girls' U-18 shot put event on Day 1 of the Indian Open Throws competition in Patiala, Punjab on Saturday.

Sanjana hurled the shot put to a distance of 15.30 metres to clinch the gold, way ahead of Haryana's Aarti, who managed her best effort of 13.22m. Haryana's Yogita won the senior event with an attempt of 16.44.

Meanwhile, reigning two-time Asian Games champion Tajinderpal Singh Toor started his season strongly as the Punjab man threw 20.51m to take the men's shot put gold.

Results: Men: Shot put: Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Pun) 20.51, 1; Karamveer Singh (Pun) 19.36, 2; Sanyam (Har) 18.28. **Hammer throw:** Damneet Singh (Rel) 70.64m, 1; Ashish Jakhar (Arm) 68.09, 2; Devang (Rai) 63.27, 3.
U-20: Shot put (6kg): Ommkar Prasad Nand (Odi) 17.85, 1; Harshit Gahlot (Har) 17.02, 2; Yash Chhikara (Del) 17.01, 3. **Hammer throw:** Aman (Har) 64.49, 1; Abdul Rahaman (MP) 63.35, 2; Shubham M (Har) 63.00, 3.
U-18: Shot put: Nishchay (Har) 19.78, 1; Yuvraj Singh (Raj) 17.83, 2; Nitesh Kumar (Har) 17.83.
Women: Shot put: Yogita (Har) 16.44, 1; Shiksha A (Rel) 16.30, 2; Rekha (NCP) 15.57, 3. **Javelin throw:** Sanjana Choudhary (NCP) 54.20, 1; Deepika A (JSW) 52.88, 2; Jyoti (JSW) 52.16. **Hammer throw:** Tanya Chaudhary (UP) 61.09, 1; Divya Shandilya (Odi) 53.31, 2; Soniya (Raj) 52.29, 3.
U-20: Shot put: Pooja Kumari (NCP) 15.04, 1; Anupriya VS (Ker) 14.69, 2; Munesh (BSF) 13.04, 3. **Hammer throw:** Khushi (Har) 49.54, 1; Ankita Mohapatra (Odi) 45.49, 2; Ayeesha Banu Moham (AP) 45.37, 3. **Discus throw:** Nikita Kumari (Raj) 51.78, 1; Amanat Kamboj (Pun) 51.13, 2; Supriya Attri (NCP) 50.09, 3. Discus throw (1 kg): Seema (NCP) 57.78, 1; Priya (Har) 56.16, 2; Sanya Yadav (Har) 52.80.
U-18: Shot put: M Reddy Sanjana (Kar) 15.30m, 1; Aarti (Har) 13.22, 2. Discus throw (1kg): Oshin (Rel) 43.61, 1; Sona Mohan (Ker) 39.55, 2; Maninder Kaur (CHN) 39.28, 3.

Japan blitz past India

PERTH, AFP: Hinata Miyazawa and Riko Ueki both hit hat-tricks as Japan powered to the cusp of the Women's Asian Cup quarterfinals with a statement 11-0 demolition of an outclassed India on Saturday.

Yuzuki Yamamoto scored after just four minutes to begin the rout in Perth and Japan were 5-0 up by half-time, with Miyazawa netting twice.

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B. No. 5531, Bengaluru-Pune Highway, Bengaluru - 560 055.
Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886, Website: www.mysoresandal.org e-mail: **ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com**
An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company
Date: 07.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited by **KS&DL** in two cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** with respect to supply of following Goods/Services/Works.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published date	Last Date of Submission
1	KSDL/2025-26/IND1092	Procurement of Coconut oil 150ml HDPE Bottle with Cap	2145000 Nos.	06.03.2026	23.03.2026
2	KSDL/2025-26/IND1093	Procurement of Coconut oil 100ml HDPE Bottle with Cap	4160000 Nos.	06.03.2026	23.03.2026
3	KSDL/2025-26/IND1094	Procurement of Coconut oil 100ml Corrugated boxes with separator and top plate	22000 Nos.	06.03.2026	23.03.2026
4	KSDL/2025-26/IND1095	Procurement of Coconut oil 150ml Corrugated Box with Top Plate &Seperator	18000 Nos.	06.03.2026	23.03.2026
5	KSDL/2025-26/IND1096	Procurement of Coconut 50ml HDPE Bottle with Cap	1950000 Nos.	06.03.2026	23.03.2026
6	KSDL/2025-26/IND1097	Procurement of Coconut oil 50ml Corrugated boxes with separator and top plate	6500 Nos.	06.03.2026	23.03.2026
7	KSDL/2025-26/IND1098	Procurement of Mysore Sandals Point Advanced Liquid Detergents 1000ml Corrugated Boxes with separator and top plate	7800 Nos.	06.03.2026	23.03.2026
8	KSDL/2025-26/IND1099	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Soap 20g/SGT 20g Corrugated Boxes	16500 Nos.	06.03.2026	23.03.2026
9	KSDL/2025-26/IND1100	Procurement of Spoorthi Suchi Sambhrama Corrugated Boxes	54500 Nos.	06.03.2026	23.03.2026
10	KSDL/2025-26/IND1101	Procurement of Sirigandgha Suchi Sambhrama Corrugated boxes	54500 Nos.	06.03.2026	23.03.2026
11	KSDL/2025-26/IND1102	Procurement of New Siriganda Suchi sambhrama Corrugated Boxes	48200 Nos.	06.03.2026	23.03.2026
12	KSDL/2025-26/IND1103	Procurement of Suchi Sambhrama Combi Pack Corrugated Boxes	14500 Nos.	06.03.2026	23.03.2026
13	KSDL/2025-26/IND1104	Procurement of Nirmala Suchi Sambhrama Corrugated boxes	90500 Nos.	06.03.2026	23.03.2026
14	KSDL/2025-26/IND1105	Procurement of New Suchi Sambhrama Combi Pack Corrugated Boxes	68000 Nos.	06.03.2026	23.03.2026
15	KSDL/2025-26/IND1106	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Body wash 200ml Corrugated Boxes with top plate	6500 Nos.	06.03.2026	23.03.2026

For any further queries/clarifications please contact the undersigned.

Sd/- Asst. General Manager (Materials)

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests,
GBA, Annex-03 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru.

No. DCF/PR-754/2025-26 Date: 07-03-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the Citizens of Bengaluru that the Defence Estates Officer, Karnataka Circle, Bengaluru has submitted an application and requested the undersigned for **removal of 71 trees standing inside the premises of Baired Barrack of 56 COY ASC (SUP) Type G, Bangalore Military Station, Bengaluru for Construction of proposed requirement for EVI Project, Provision of Security, Married Accommodation and Storage Infrastructure.**

Total No. of trees standing in the project : **71 Nos.**

Description of trees, species, location, area, etc. uploaded in the website of GBA for information of all **(www.bbmp.gov.in).**

Public can send their comments either by Email/Post/hand to; **(a) The Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer, GBA, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02. Email: dcfbbmp12@gmail.com (b) The DEO, Karnataka Circle, Bengaluru. Email id: decobangstats@nic.in** Comments communicated directly to DEO, Karnataka Circle should also be marked a copy to the Tree Officer/DCF, GBA.

Deadline for filing objections: Ten (10 days) from the date of publication of this notification in Newspaper. (Objections/comments/ suggestions should be relevant and specific to the project).

In view of the above, the suggestions/objections/comments are invited from citizens under Section 8(3) (vii) of the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976.

Sd/- Tree Officer & Deputy Conservator of Forests,
GBA, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521
No: CEE/Tr(Op)H/SEE/EE(C)/37/2025-26/14888-90 Date: 04.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites tenders through KPP portal mode from registered KPWD Civil Contractors having EPF and ESI registration and fulfilling the all other requirements as in NIT (of KPP) for the execution of following **04 Nos. of Civil Works (within Hassan Transmission Operation Zone jurisdiction). Tender Indent No. KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT2813/Call-2, KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT2812/Call-2, 2719/Call-2, 2599//Call-2 (Others)** (All are second call).

Interested tenderers directly can access the tendering website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL" or https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **10.03.2026 onwards** for detailed NIT and to participate in the tenders through e-procurement. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele)
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan,
3rd Floor, Sanepete, B.M. Road, Hassa-573201.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY
(IMA & OTHER KPIDFE CASES)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswaraiah Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001.
Phone No: 080 - 29565353 E-mail: splocaima21@gmail.com

No: SPLOCA/ADM/30/2024-25 **NOTIFICATION** Date: 06-03-2026

ವಿಷಯ: ವಿಶೇಷಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಿ (ಐಎಂಎ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಕಂಪನಿ ವಂಚನೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು / ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ವಿಶೇಷಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಿ (ಐಎಂಎ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಕಂಪನಿ ವಂಚನೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿವಿಧ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಆಸಕ್ತ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳಿಂದ Resume ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಶೇಷಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಿ (ಐಎಂಎ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಕಂಪನಿ ವಂಚನೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ. **ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14–03–2026.**

JOB's DETAILS

Sl. No.	Post / Designation	Qualification		Relevant Experience		No. of Post	Contract Wage per Month
		Basic	Preference	Basic	Preference		
1	IT Personnel-2 (Forensic Data Scientist)	BE CSE / IS with Certificate in Cyber Forensics and Cyber Law (CCCFL)	BE CSE / IS with PG Diploma in CCCFL	Minimum 1 Year as Data Scientist or Cyber Forensic Expert.	1 Year in CA Firm or Forensic Audit Firm.	1	Rs. 55,000/- to Rs. 75,000/- Depending on Qualification & Experience.

Sl. No.	Post / Designation	No. of Post	Maximum Contract Wage per Month	Qualification
1	Shirastedar / Deputy Tahsildar	1	Rs. 55,000/- (Actual shall depend upon Qualification & Experience)	Retired from Revenue Department and not above the age of 65 years.

The Position to be filled is a post created vide Government Order and is renewable year on year. It is a post on contract, renewable on satisfactory performance with periodic enhancement of salary scales, **not a permanent government service.**

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(IMA & Other KPIDFE Cases) Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/6075/Adverto/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commissionerate of Agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru-1

No:DDA/FCL/Lab equip/e-Tender/2/2025-26 Date: 06.03.2026

SHORT TERM e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Department of Agriculture during 2025-26 has invited short term tender through e-procurement portal from Manufacturers/ Authorized agents / Dealers for supply of Laboratory Scientific Instrument/ Equipments. These Instrument/ Equipments are to be supplied to Fertiliser Control Laboratory, Bangalore and Biofertilizer Quality Control Laboratory, Hebbal, Bangalore as detailed below:

The names of Equipments / Instruments required for the laboratories are as follows:

Tender No	Name of the Equipment/Instrument	No. of units required	EMD to be submitted (Rs)
DDA/FCL/ Lab equip/ e-Tender/2 2025-26, date: 06.03.26	Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS)	02	1,50,000/-

The tender document is available in e-procurement **portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from Date **07-03-2026.**

Tenderer must submit Earnest money deposit (EMD) mentioned against the instruments should be paid through e-payment only.

Tenders should be uploaded through e-procurement portal on or before **16.03.2026 within 1.00 PM.**

The Tender Scrutinizing Committee will open the technical bid on **17.03.2026 2.30PM** in the "Samrudhi" Video Conference Hall, Commissionerate of Agriculture, Sheshadri Road, Bangalore-560001. The date of Commercial Bid opening will be intimated later.

Sd/-
Director of Agriculture

DIPR/CP/6071/NR/2025-26

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-1,
4th Floor, Jayanagar Commercial Complex, 30th Cross Road,
9th Main Road, Jayanagara 4th Block, Bengaluru - 560011.

No: EE(QA/QC)/Z-1/BSCC/TEND/04/2025-26 Date: 07-03-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance / Quality Control Division, Zone-1, BSCC, Bengaluru invites Request for Proposal from interested Persons / Firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC) for the below works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the Work of Resurfacing / Providing Concrete to Existing Roads. Improvements to Drains and Footpath in Ward No.180, Banashankari Temple Ward. **Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 200.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,900/-**
2	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the Work of Resurfacing / Providing Concrete to Existing Roads. Improvements to Drains and Footpath in Ward No.181, Kumaraswamy Layout. **Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 300.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 8,850/-**
3	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the Work of Resurfacing / Providing Concrete to Existing Roads. Improvements to Drains and Footpath in Ward No.182, Padmanabhanagara. **Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 500.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 14,800/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Document may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 09-03-2026. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **12-03-2026 at 11.30 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), BSCC, 4th Floor, Jayanagara Commercial Complex, 30th Cross Road, 9th Main Road, Jayanagara 4th Block, Bengaluru - 560011. 3)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders: **23-03-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **24-03-2026 at 4.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-1, BSCC.

INDIA EYE HISTORY as Kiwis look to end final jinx

Sky & Co seek to become the first team to win two titles in a row

SIDNEY KIRAN
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

Right throughout the ICC T20 World Cup, India have been searching for the 'perfect game' with mixed results. Now, the defending champions will be seeking the perfect climax against a dangerous New Zealand on Sunday as they look to create history at a venue that gave them one of their greatest heartbreaks two and a half years ago.

Mitchell Santner

In a tournament like the World Cup, which generally spans over a month across vastly differing venues and conditions, it's not how to start but how effectively you finish the job. The early phase is about getting your bearings right and gradual progression, but what separates the best from the ordinary is how well they can handle the pressure of must-win games at the business end, where there's no room for mistakes.

On that front, two-time champions India have been on the mark, raising their level several notches high when their title hopes appeared on shaky ground following a chastening defeat to South Africa at the Narendra Modi Stadium — the venue for the final — a fortnight ago. Since that setback, India have been nothing less than outstanding, especially with the bat, and they'll be carrying that confidence against an equally buoyant New Zealand, whom the Men In Blue have never beaten in three World Cup matches, with the Kiwis also proving to be a thorn in their flesh on numerous occasions in ICC events.

India will be banking big on their batting might as they look to become the first team to defend the title and win the coveted crown at home — something that will give their billion-plus fans unbridled joy following the sickening loss to Australia in the 2023 World Cup at the gigantic venue that was packed with about 1 lakh people. Except Sunday to be no different too.

Sanju Samson has been in smashing form since returning to the playing XI against Zimbabwe, picking up two successive Player of the Match awards; Ishan Kishan has adapted nicely at one drop; Suryakumar Yadav has played according to the situations; Tilak Varma has found his range after being pushed down the order and finishers Shivam Dube and Hardik Pandya have delivered whenever it has mattered. The only concern is the continued miserable run of opener Abhishek Sharma. The grand final could be the perfect occasion for the southpaw to prove the adage "form is temporary, class is permanent".

Another major worry for India is Varun Chakravarthy's alarming dip in form since the start of the Super Eights phase. He's been bleeding runs and struggling to arrest it. But the rest of the bowlers have held their nerve, especially the once-in-a-generation Jasprit Bumrah whose overs in the death are like gold dust.

Like how India, the superpowers of modern cricket, are chasing their own history, perennial underdogs are hoping to add that elusive glorious chapter in a limited-overs World Cup event. The inaugural ICC Test Championship winners have reached the semifinals of T20 World Cups on five occasions and lost the only final to Australia in 2021. Even in ODI World Cups, they've reached the semifinals on seven occasions and progressed to the title clash twice but lost both those contests. It's this cross that will be weighing heavily on them.

But given how they brutally busted open an undefeated South Africa in the semifinal with Finn Allen scoring an unbelievable 33-ball 100 not out, New Zealand know moments of brilliance like that from a squad oozing with talent can 'break a billion hearts'. Opener Tim Seifert, middle-order batters Rachin Ravindra and Glenn Phillips have been in good touch while Mark Chapman, Daryl Mitchell and Mitchell Santner have played some game-changing innings as well. Even on the bowling front, they look sorted with the off-spin duo of Philipps and Cole McConchie capable of making life difficult for the Indian southpaws. And let's not forget Santner and Ravindra, the latter who has had a memorable outing as an all-rounder.

New Zealand almost missed the bus, sneaking into the semis despite just one win in the Super Eights. They'll be hoping Sunday is the day they get the monkey off their backs. For India, it's all about strengthening their status as the limited-overs powerhouse — they are also the holders of the ICC Champions Trophy and the Asia Cup.

Indian team captain Suryakumar Yadav gives an admiring look at the T20 World Cup silverware during India's practice session on the eve of their final against New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Saturday. AFP

SQUADS:

INDIA:
Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Ishan Kishan, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Varun Chakravarthy, Arshdeep Singh, Rinku Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Washington Sundar.

NEW ZEALAND:
Mitchell Santner (captain), Finn Allen, Tim Seifert, Rachin Ravindra, Mark Chapman, Glenn Phillips, Daryl Mitchell, Matt Henry, Lockie Ferguson, Cole McConchie, Kyle Jamieson, Jacob Duffy, Devon Conway, Jimmy Neesham, Ish Sodhi.

India v New Zealand in T20Is

	Mats	Ind	NZ	Tied
Before 2020	11	3	8	0
Since 2020	19	15	3	1
In India	16	11	5	0

Overall record in Ahmedabad

	Won	Lost
India	7	3
New Zealand	0	2

India's results in T20 WC finals

Year	Vs	Venue	Result
2007	Pak	Johannesburg	Won by 5 runs
2014	SL	Mirpur	Lost by 6 wkts
2024	SA	Bridgetown	Won by 7 runs

Overall performance in T20 WC - 2026

India		New Zealand
7-1	Win-Loss	5-5
88	Total 6s hit	57
10.78	Scoring rate v Pace	11.00
8.31	Scoring rate v Spin	8.79
35	Wickets by pacers	22
8.69	Pacers Economy	8.87
23	Wickets by spinners	18
8.30	Spinners economy	7.55

Captaincy record

	SKY*	Santner
M	51	52
W	41	28
L	8	18
NR	2	6
Win%	80.4	53.9

*Suryakumar Yadav

COMPILED BY ARUN GOPALAKRISHNAN

Being calm in tight situations is key to handling pressure: Surya

SIDNEY KIRAN
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

Suryakumar Yadav. PTI

When India take the field against New Zealand in the final of the T20 World Cup on Sunday, they'll be chasing their fourth major title in the last two years. Since winning the last edition in 2024 in the Americas, the Men In Blue have triumphed in the ICC Champions Trophy as well as the Asia Cup — both in the West Asia.

The recipe for their success, apart from playing incredibly consistent cricket, is their ability to handle pressure effectively. Even in this tournament, when they were pushed to a corner by South Africa in the opening Super Eights game that turned the remainder of the competition into knockouts, they've conjured their best. They walloped Zimbabwe and West Indies and held their composure in a high-speed chase against England in the semifinals to sneak into their fourth T20 World Cup final.

So how is the team able to consistently raise the bar when the tide is high? India skipper Suryakumar Yadav, addressing a press conference packed with over 100 journalists here at the Narendra Modi Stadium, said doing the hard yards in training is what keeps them in good stead during match situations.

"See, I think handling pressure is all about how calm you are in tight situations. For example, I know it's not that easy, but then when you are in your practice sessions training, at that time if you put a lot of pressure on yourself, taking those difficult catches, batting in difficult situations, thinking about that, like mentally being ready in practice sessions. When you go in the game, you know you have done all these things before in practice. So all these things are really important.

"And obviously talking to each other, this feels like a proper family. So you can turn up to any player, any support staff, because even the support staff have been in similar situations before when they have played. So talking to each other I think helps a lot to be very calm and composed."

India and New Zealand locked horns in a bilateral limited-overs series just before the World Cup, with the former winning the T20Is and the latter bagging the ODI spoils. When asked if he sees a different New Zealand on Sunday as compared to the one in January, Suryakumar said he expected a competitive final. "I haven't seen their matches. I don't watch cricket matches on TV. I think the team must be similar. One or two things must have changed. The last game, the team was 95% the same. But they have been playing good cricket here. We are also playing good cricket. I am sure it will be a good game tomorrow.

"Everyone obviously is very excited to play the final tomorrow. And they have been one of the sides who've been very tactical. They come with a good plan. But we also have our plans. We've been preparing for such a big stage. So we'll be completely focused on what we want to do rather than what others think about our team."

Suryakumar, who took over from the likeable Rohit Sharma, said he's just continued to follow the same blueprint as his Mumbai mate. "I got to learn a lot of things from him when I was playing under him. So I also followed the same strategy, going into the dressing room with the experience of Gauti bhai (head coach Gautam Gambhir). Obviously, his experience was also very vital. And where he left off in 2024, I played a lot of cricket with him. I know how he worked. So I tried to implement the same things with a few thoughts of my own."

England, SA, WI to leave India over weekend

NEW DELHI, PTI: England, South Africa and West Indies are set to depart India over the weekend on chartered flights arranged by the ICC following disruption to commercial air travel due to the ongoing conflict involving US, Israel and Iran.

A source said that England, who went down to India in the second semifinal on Thursday, are expected to leave from Mumbai on Saturday evening on a direct flight to London.

West Indies and South Africa are the other two teams still in the country despite their campaigns having ended.

Both South Africa and West Indies will travel together from Kolkata on a another charter flight.

KEY PLAYERS

INDIA

JASPRIT BUMRAH

No praise is high enough for the impact Bumrah has game after game, series after series, World Cup after World Cup. If India are the reigning T20 World Cup champions, they owe a large part of it to his game-changing spell in the final against South Africa. He is one bowler no matter how deep you study him, you still can't decode him.

LIVE: Star Sports and Jiohotstar @ 7.00 pm

SANJU SAMSON

From being vilified to glorified in the span of a month, life has come full circle for Sanju Samson. He failed to make the playing XI cut following a miserable series against New Zealand but from the moment he returned owing to a tactical change, his has beena marauding presence with two successive Player of the Match performances. He'll be gunning for hat-trick that would be the crowning moment for a topsy-turvy career.

NEW ZEALAND

RACHIN RAVINDRA

The New Zealander with Indian parents has been outstanding for the Kiwis, picking 11 wickets and scoring 128 runs. Although he is a left-arm orthodox bowler, which a southpaw-loaded Indian batting may relish, he's an extremely crafty customer with the knack of picking wickets. New Zealand will be banking big on him to crush the hopes of his parents' homeland.

TIM SEIFERT

Although Finn Allen shot into spotlight with his raging century in the semis, Seifert has been Mr Dependable for New Zealand this World Cup with three half-centuries in seven innings. The opener has constantly gotten New Zealand off to strong starts, living up to his nickname 'Bam Bam'. He's a 360 degree batter with the skill to play around field placements. If he gets going, India could be in for a leather hunt.

COMPILED BY SIDNEY KIRAN

Now, Santner wants to silence the Indian crowd

SIDNEY KIRAN
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

Mitchell Santner. PTI

New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner on Saturday said his side 'doesn't mind breaking a few hearts and silencing the crowd' as they chase an elusive ICC World Cup after having fallen short at the final stage on a few occasions.

Although New Zealand are yet to win a limited-overs World Cup while India have won four of those — two each in ODIs and T20Is — Santner reckoned the pressure will be higher on Men In Blue considering they'll be playing at home where fans expect nothing less than a trophy.

"Yeah, I guess that's the goal, isn't it, to silence the crowd," said Santner, reiterating what Australia skipper Pat Cummins' statement ahead of the 2023 World Cup final at this venue which India lost. "But I think that there are a lot of variables in T20 cricket, and it is fickle at times. We've seen South Africa playing very good cricket all the way through and then I guess had a little hiccup against us, and you're out.

"So I think for us, it's taking confidence in that if we go about our business the same way, we can upset another big team.

"I think there's obviously a lot of pressure on India to win this World Cup at home. I mean, it would be. It would be pretty cool to win a home World Cup, so I think that comes with a lot of added pressure as well. So if we can go out there and try to put, I guess, the added pressure on them and see what happens."

In T20 World Cups, the Kiwis have competed in five semifinals and advanced to the final just once, where they lost to arch-rivals Australia by eight wickets in Dubai. In ODI World Cups, they've contested in seven semifinals and progressed to two finals, losing both in contrasting fashion.

In 2015 at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground, they were blown apart by the trio of Australian pacers Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Johnson and James Faulkner, losing the game by seven wickets, while four years later at Lord's, they lost a nerve-jangling match to England, the latter laying their hands on the trophy via 'boundary count' rule after the Super Over also finished on tie.

It's this massive pressure of bottling big games, plus a massive ground comprising around a lakh people rooting for India, that New Zealand will be up against as they try to break the jinx, but the ever-composed Santner was confident March 8 could be a defining day for his nation.

CASHING IN ON

Final rush: Airfares skyrocket, hotel tariffs up 300%

AHMEDABAD, PTI

Airfares on major routes to Ahmedabad, which will host the T20 World Cup final between favourites India and New Zealand on Sunday, have skyrocketed, with cricket fans flocking to the city.

The surge in travel demand has prompted the Indian Railways to introduce special trains to Ahmedabad, said officials on Saturday.

"Flights from Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and other cities have seen significant spikes in the airfares," said Chairman of the Gujarat Tourism Development Society (GTDS) Manish Sharma.

The Mumbai-Ahmedabad airfares, which usually hover around Rs 3,000, have surged to Rs 15,000-Rs 17,000. Flights from New Delhi to Ahmedabad are currently priced at around Rs 14,000, while Bengaluru-Ahmedabad fares have also spiked to nearly Rs 13,000, Sharma said.

The jump in prices comes amid massive demand from cricket enthusiasts eager to witness the final, which is scheduled to be held at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

To manage the rush, Western Railways announced special trains from Mumbai to Ahmedabad. The Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) at Mumbai Central confirmed the arrangements. "To clear the extra rush of passengers during the T20 Men's World Cup Final, AC Superfast Special Trains on Demand (TOD) on Special Fare will run between Bandra Terminus-Ahmedabad," the DRM wrote.

The railways has announced that Train No. 09029, an AC Superfast Special, will run one trip on March 8 (Sunday). The train will depart from Bandra Terminus at 00:05 hrs and arrive in Ahmedabad at 08:40 hrs, halting at Surat and Vadodara along the way, the DRM said.

Hotel room tariffs have also jumped, with rates rising by as much as 300 to 400 per cent, an industry representative said.

The high-profile match is scheduled to be held at the Narendra Modi Stadium in the city on Sunday.

Narendra Somani, hotelier and president of the Hotels and Restaurants Association of Gujarat, said room tariffs that were earlier around Rs 15,000 have jumped as cricket fans from across India and abroad arrive in the city for the match.

"There is a 300 per cent to 400 per cent increase in the room tariffs due to the high demand in view of the T20 WC final. Rooms which were available for Rs 5,000 to Rs 20,000 now have rates between Rs 15,000 and Rs 50,000," he said.

ADAPTABILITY The presence of 3 SENA teams in the T20 WC semis underlines the narrowing gap with Asian giants

Subcontinent demystified

SIDNEY KIRAN
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

There was a time, in fact for several decades, when SENA (South Africa — following their readmission to cricket in 1991 — England, New Zealand and Australia) dreaded travelling to the Indian sub-continent. Apart from the energy-sapping humidity in places like Chennai, Mumbai or Colombo, or the dry, blistering heat of cities like Delhi, Nagpur or Karachi, the slow and spinning tracks would often puncture their confidence even before they stepped foot here. And as the baggage of the past kept piling on, they lost the battle mentality mostly, rather physically or skill-wise.

Bred on seaming surfaces, the spin examination against world-class operators was often considered the final frontier. While guys like England's Graham Gooch, Australia's Dean Jones, South Africa's Hashim Amla, and New Zealand's Kane Williamson, to name a few, flourished, many found the challenge arduous. Barring an odd Test loss here or there, or a rare series defeat, India called the shots overwhelmingly in their own bastion. Even the supremely dominant Australian sides under the captaincy of Steve Waugh and Ricky Ponting couldn't post a Test series win in India. Pakistan and Sri Lanka weren't any less of a force either in their own backyard.

Both New Zealand and South Africa have shown the way with their recent successes in India across formats. PTI/AFP

Things though have begun to undergo a massive change over the last decade, across formats. Take the last two World Cups in the sub-continent, where three of the four semifinalists are non sub-continent teams. At the ODI World Cup in 2023, Australia, South Africa, India and New Zealand entered the last-four stage, with the Aussies going on to hammer India in the final to win the coveted trophy for a record-extending sixth time. At the ongoing T20 World Cup, co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, it was the Men in Blue, England, South Africa and New Zealand who advanced to the semis. Bizarrely, Pakistan and Sri Lanka struggled on the sluggish surfaces in Colombo and Pallekele, while teams like England and New Zealand flourished there.

Even in Tests, India's cloak of invincibility has been ripped open by New Zealand and South Africa in the last couple of years. While the former not only won their maiden series (3-0), they handed India their first-ever bagel at home involving three or more Tests. South Africa picked up the cue from the Kiwis and defeated India 2-0, giving the hosts a taste of their own medicine with unheralded off-spinner Simon Harmer bagging a whopping 17 wickets. New Zealand, who will take on India in the final of the T20 World Cup in Ahmedabad on Sunday, even won a three-match ODI series 2-1 in January.

This decade, both England (3-0) and Australia (1-0) have managed to win a Test series in Pakistan, the victors making the most of the batting beauties the latter doled out because of the lack of depth in their own ranks. In fact, England, who are often unfairly slammed over their perceived inefficiency at tackling spin, warmed up for the T20 World Cup strongly by blanking a full-strength Sri Lanka 3-0 in their own backyard. Throughout the series, the Three Lions appeared completely confident against the mystery Sri Lanka spinners, easily tackling them without the fear of the unknown. In Tests alone, the SENA nations' win-rate ratio jumped to 24% between 2010-2018 and has risen to 40% since the start of the World Test Championships in August 2019.

So what has changed? How are SENA countries cracking the sub-continent code so effectively across formats? A massive contributing factor towards their growing success is the onset of the IPL since 2008. In the bygone era, players would come to the sub-continent only for tours and practice matches too were limited for a variety of reasons. But now they spend at least two months a year in India, travelling across the length and breadth of the country, that too during peak summer. They are exposed to the pitches a lot more, have gotten a better grip of the scorching conditions, and increased interactions with local coaches have enhanced their intellect. What was once considered alien has become part of the stable now. They understand the nuances as much as local players.

"I think I guess you'd probably say that the non-sub-continent teams have adapted really well to, I guess, the conditions thrown at them," reckoned England all-rounder Sam Curran ahead of the semifinal against India in Mumbai. "All of us play a lot of cricket in India now, so we know how to play on these grounds and we know what to expect. The IPL, no question, has helped a lot of that with the players, but yeah, I guess they're just really quality teams. South Africa and New Zealand are fantastic teams, and we're a really good team as well, and of course, India."

Also, apart from improvements in batting, SENA nations also boast of equally strong spinners who can be as effective as the sub-continent ones. South Africa have Keshav Maharaj across formats, England boast of Adil Rashid in limited-overs and Jack Leach in Tests, New Zealand has the canny Mitchell Santner while Australia, the only team not to have embraced T20Is as much as Tests and ODIs, have been served exceptionally by Nathan Lyon for over a decade and a half in red-ball cricket.

England skipper Harry Brook felt the perception that his team is poor against spin has been proven wrong in the 3-0 T20I series win over Sri Lanka and their run to the semifinals of the T20 World Cup where they lost to India but still handled Varun Chakravarthy and Axar Patel adeptly. "I feel like England always get a bad rap about playing against spin. We've gone to Sri Lanka and we've won six games in a row against the sub-continent side who are very good in their own backyard. We've got a lot of confidence playing on turning pitches."

It's safe to say, the playing field has significantly evened out now.

Vaishnavi, Ankita set up final date

BENGALURU, DHNS

Vaishnavi Adkar and Ankita Raina set up an all-Indian singles final at the ITF W35 Kalaburagi after winning their respective semifinals on Saturday, before joining forces to capture the women's doubles title.

The second-seeded Indian pair defeated compatriots Akanksha Nitture and Soha Sadiq 6-2, 6-2 in the doubles final to lift the trophy, earning 35 WTA ranking points and USD 1,762 as champions while runners-up Nitture and Sadiq secured 23 points and USD 895.

Third seed Vaishnavi Adkar produced a composed performance to defeat top seed Jasmijn Gimbrere (ranked 430th) 6-3, 6-2 and advance to the singles final, her second consecutive final after the W100 in Bengaluru.

In the second semifinal, eighth seed Ankita Raina staged a comeback to defeat sixth seed Thasaporn Naklo 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Naklo took the opening set 6-4 after using aggressive net approaches and strong finishing to gain control during the closing stages.

Raina responded strongly in the second set, breaking midway through to move ahead 4-3 before serving out the set 6-4. The momentum carried into the deciding set as Raina broke early and continued to apply pressure with consistent baseline play. Another break in the seventh game gave her a commanding 5-2 lead and she sealed the match with a comfortable hold to win the final set 6-2.

Ankita Raina (left) and Vaishnavi Adkar beat compatriots Akanksha Nitture and Soha Sadiq 6-2, 6-2 in the doubles final of the ITF W35 Kalaburagi on Saturday.

The doubles final began with routine service holds before Adkar and Raina gradually asserted themselves at the net.

Results: Singles: Semifinals: 3-Vaishnavi Adkar (Ind) bt 1-Jasmijn Gimbrere (Ned) 6-3, 6-2; 8-Ankita Raina (Ind) bt 6-Thasaporn Naklo (Tha) 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. **Doubles: Final:** 2-Vaishnavi Adkar / Ankita Raina (Ind) bt Akanksha Nitture / Soha Sadiq (IND) 6-2, 6-2.

HOCKEY WOMEN'S WC QUALIFIERS

India bank on Marijne magic

Salima-led hosts take on Uruguay in their Pool B opener on Sunday

HYDERABAD, PTI

Under a new but familiar coach in Sjoerd Marijne, India will aim to secure a coveted berth at the upcoming FIH Women's Hockey World Cup when they open their campaign against Uruguay in the Qualifiers here on Sunday.

The tournament will feature eight teams -- hosts India, England, Scotland, Korea, Italy, Uruguay, Wales and Austria -- competing for three coveted qualification spots for the global showpiece.

Indian women's hockey team captain Salima Tete feels the hosts are well-prepared for the World Cup qualifiers, beginning Sunday in Hyderabad. HI MEDIA

At stake will be three direct World Cup berths, with the teams finishing first, second and third in the tournament earning direct qualification for the 2026 edition to be hosted jointly by Belgium and the Netherlands from August 14 to 30 alongside the men's event.

It will be Marijne's first assignment back as head coach, as the Dutchman returns for the second time since leaving the position after the team's historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

THE FORMAT

- Pool A: England, Korea, Italy and Austria
- Pool B: India, Scotland, Uruguay and Wales
- Top two teams from each pool will move to the semis.
- Winners of both semis and the bronze-medal match will qualify for the WC.
- The highest world-ranked team finishing fourth in the meet will also qualify

Russell leads Mercedes 1-2

MELBOURNE, AFP

George Russell powered to pole position on Saturday for the season-opening Australian Grand Prix ahead of Mercedes team-mate Kimi Antonelli, but there was disaster for Max Verstappen as he crashed out.

On a fine day at Melbourne's Albert Park, Verstappen's Red Bull partner Isack Hadjar came third in chaotic qualifying as the pecking order became clearer after the biggest regulation shake-up F1 has seen in years.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc will keep Hadjar company on the second row with McLaren's Oscar Piastri and world champion team-mate Lando Norris starting fifth and sixth.

Russell eclipsed his rivals with a flying lap of one minute 18.518 seconds on soft tyres, 0.293 ahead of Antonelli.

"A great day. We knew there was a lot of potential in the car," said the Briton.

"Really happy to have Kimi here next to me as well, as the team did an amazing job in the garage today."

Incredibly, Antonelli showed up after crashing heavily in final practice earlier in the day and writing off his Silver Arrow.

The 19-year-old Italian left the car in a mess but his mechanics miraculously managed to stitch it back together and he got on track with just three minutes left of Q1 to stay alive.

Mercedes' George Russell celebrates after qualifying in pole position for the Australian GP in Melbourne on Saturday. REUTERS

Verstappen woes

It was a nightmare for four-time world champion Verstappen -- the 2023 and 2024 pole-sitter -- who slammed into the barriers at Turn 1 of his first flying lap in Q1.

"The car just locked on the rear axle. Fantastic," said the Dutchman, whose hopes of a second win in Australia after his 2023 victory appear to be over.

Verstappen was also cleared by F1's medical team after X-rays on his hands following the crash, reports AP.

The four-time world champion was seen inspecting his hands after he got out of his Red Bull.

Foxy wins Radha Sigtia Trophy

MUMBAI RESULTS

Behram Cama-trained Foxy, ridden by Aditya Waydande, won the Radha Sigtia Trophy, the feature event of the Mumbai races on Saturday.

1. Aziz H.Ahmedbhoy Trophy - 2400M: Exuma (Prashant Nagar) Nikhil Parmar 1; Pristine Glory (Neeraj Rawal) 2; Diego Garcia (Yash Narredu) 3; Flaming Lamborgini (Mosin) 4; Wb: 4-1/4, 1-3/4L, Dist. T: 2:30.68. TB: M.K.Jadhav. Fav: Diego Garcia.

2. Euphemia Plate - 1200M: Admirable (Ram H Shrofff) Akshay Kumar 1; Minari (Neeraj Rawal) 2; Paloma (Yash Narredu) 3; Victory Flair (Nikhil Parmar) 4; Not Run: Storm Majesty. Wb: 3/4, 1/2, 4L.T: 1:10.04. TB: Pradeep Chouhan. Fav: Minari.

3. Usman Chotani Plate - 1800M: Youremanorborne (Vijeth Bhandary) Ajinkya 1; Tropical Paradise (Nikhil Parmar) 2; Exotic Star (B.Nikhil) 3; Flash Mob (Umesh) 4; Wb: 8-3/4, 2, 1/L. T: 1:48.56. TB: Pradeep Chouhan. Fav: Viking.

4. Radha Sigtia Trophy - 1000M: Foxy (Jaydev Mody) Aditya Waydande 1; Storm Cloud (P.Dhebe) 2; Cellini (A.Omkar) 3; Your Unforgettable (Yash Narredu) 4; Wb: 2, 1/2, 1/2L. T: 0:57.30. TB: Behram Cama. Fav: Foxy.

5. Indian Navy Trophy - 1400M: Manwar (Marthand Singh Mahindra) Akshay Kumar 1; Undercover (Yash Narredu) 2; Agatha (G.Vivek) 3; Gold Bar (S.Kamble) 4; Wb: 1/2, Nk, 1-1/4L. T: 1:22.53. TB: Pradeep Chouhan. Fav: Undercover.

6. 1805 Trophy - 1000M: Samson (Laxmikumar Goculdas) Aditya Waydande 1; Sky Full Of Stars (Akshay Gaikwad) 2; Rise All Stars (S.G.Prasad) 3; Key West (Haridas Gore) 4; Wb: 1, 1-1/4, 1/2L. T: 0:58.75. TB: Shyam Habbu. Fav: Sky Full Of Stars.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 32w; 14, 14p; Fc: Rs 95; Q: Rs 28; Shp: Rs 20; Thp: Rs 33; Tri: Rs 57 & 19.
II race: Rs 36w; 11, 10, 11p; Fc: Rs 114; Q: Rs 45; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 50; Tri: Rs 77 & 82; Ex: Rs 341 & 156.
III race: Rs 51w; 17, 20, 66p; Fc: Rs 337; Q: Rs 283; Shp: Rs 57; Thp: Rs 103; Tri: Rs 14,679 & 6,291; Ex: Rs 53,401.
IV race: Rs 18w; 10, 28p; Fc: Rs 68; Q: Rs 44; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs; 27; Tri: Rs 435 & 222; Ex: Rs 344 & 76.
V race: Rs 78w; 22, 11, 34p; Fc: Rs 28; Q: Rs 21; Shp: Rs 37; Thp: Rs 72; Tri: Rs 77 & 33; Ex: Rs 651 & 516.
VI race: Rs 53w; 23, 15, 41p; Fc: Rs 256; Q: Rs 102; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 143; Tri: Rs 15,605 & 13,376; Ex: Rs 45,373 (c/o).
Jackpot: Rs 61,164 (11). **Runner-Up:** Rs 4,179 (69). **Treble:** Rs 1,038 (81).

Zayyan for main event

MUMBAI SELECTIONS

Pesi Shroff-trained Zayyan, to be ridden by Vivek G, will garner the maximum support in the Rajpipla Trophy, the feature event of the races to be run over a distance of seven furlongs on Sunday. The first race starts at 4:30 pm.

1. S. Padmanabhan Cup - 1400M: Fourth Wing 1, Bishop 2, Ardakan 3.
2. J.P.Vazifdar Trophy - 1600M: Don Julio 1, Seneca 2, Rambler 3.
3. Rajpipla Trophy - 1400M: Zayyan 1, Lion Heart 2, Golden Axl 3.
4. J. Rustomji Soparivala Trophy - 1000M: Lucky Diamond 1, Staria 2, Sporting Alice 3.
5. Greater Mumbai Police Trophy - 1000M: Heaven's Rhythm 1, Chelsea 2, Johnny Mac 3.
6. Vallabhdas H. Adwalia Trophy - 1400M: Beyond Stars 1, Golden Heart 2, Anaira 3. **7. A.Geddis Plate - 1200M:** Interceptor 1, Marcus 2, Silver Strike 3.
Day's best: Fourth Wing. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **Treble:** 4, 5 & 6.

Bengaluru FC return to winning ways

BENGALURU, DHNS: In many firsts for the season, Ashique Kuruniyan and Ryan Williams finally found the the net as Bengaluru FC posted their first away game of the Indian Super League season, defeating Mohammedan SC 2-1 at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata on Saturday.

After a strong start in the first half with Sunil Chhetri making his first start of the ISL season, Ryan opened the scoring in the 22nd minute after several near misses for the visitors. Ashique then scored his debut goal for BFC in the 41st minute to give the comfort of an insurance goal.

Ryan Williams

MSC came back strong in the second half with Roy Mahitosh volleying past goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu in the 51st minute. The hosts pushed for an equaliser but a shaky BFC defence kept itself afloat.

Head coach Renedy Singh made three crucial changes to his starting XI as Siroj Kuziev also joined Chhetri in at the start. Rahul Bheke also returned to the line-up after an injury-related absence.

Results: Mohammedan SC: 1 (Roy Mahitosh 51st) bt Bengaluru FC: 2 (Ryan Williams 22nd, Ashique Kuruniyan 41st).

Arsenal survive to reach quarters

MANSFIELD (UK), AFP

Eberechi Eze smashed home the winner as Arsenal survived a scare to overcome third-tier Mansfield 2-1 and reach the FA Cup quarter-finals on Saturday, keeping alive their hopes for a historic quadruple.

Liverpool's Andrew Robertson, Mohamed Salah and Curtis Jones scored in their 3-1 win against Wolves on Friday to move into the FA Cup quarterfinals.

In Mansfield, Gunners boss Mikel Arteta made nine changes to the side that beat Brighton 1-0 in midweek to open up a seven-point lead over Manchester City at the top of the Premier League.

Noni Madueke put the 14-time FA Cup winners ahead shortly before half-time, only for substitute Will Evans to level soon after the break.

The winning goal came in the second half as Eze smashed home from the edge of the box in the 66th minute.

Results: Quarterfinals: Mansfield: 1 (Evans 50th) lt to Arsenal: 2 (Madueke 41st, Eze 66th); Wolves: 1 (Hwang 90+2th) lt to Liverpool: 3 (Robertson 51st, Salah 53rd, Jones 74th).

Valverde's late strike

Federico Valverde's heavily deflected 95th-minute drive snatched injury-hit Real Madrid a 2-1 win at Celta Vigo in La Liga on Friday.

The Uruguayan midfielder needed a stroke of fortune at the death to pull his team to within one point of leaders Barcelona.

Mohamed Salah

ILLUSIONS AND DELUSIONS

India's accountability puzzle: Who'll regulate the regulator?

TCA Ranganathan
The former chairman of the Export Import Bank of India is a banker with a theory of everything
@tcartca

The recent arrest of the Fino Bank managing director in Bengaluru over allegations that sensitive data was siphoned from a fintech partner's accounts, causing a revenue loss of over Rs 12 crore, has barely attracted media attention. This is despite the bank clarifying that the matter concerned external programme managers and business partners, not its own GST compliance. A few years earlier, in Jaisalmer, a former public sector bank chairman was arrested over allegations about the sale of a defaulted property to an asset reconstruction company – a transaction approved and reviewed at lower levels.

While no one argues that wrongdoers should not be punished, the fact remains that over two dozen bank chiefs have been arrested similarly in the past decade and a half. Convictions, however, have been vanishingly rare – most cases have lingered in court or ended in acquittals. Arrests, in other words, have become more about optics than outcomes. And here lies the irony: India's banking and financial sector is in rude health, with profits at record highs and bad loans at multi-year lows. The acts of negligence, if proven, were never alleged to have cost lives; only monetary losses were alleged. Yet elsewhere, negligence has repeatedly cost lives, but custodial accountability remains indulgently absent. Examples abound.

Consider adulterated medicines. Several countries, including Gambia, Uzbekistan, and the Marshall Islands, have complained that contaminated Indian drugs were linked to child deaths. Within India too, tragedies have struck: in Madhya Pradesh, dozens of children died after consuming cough syrup tainted with diethylene glycol. Arrests did follow, but only of small manufacturers, pharmacists, or distributors. No senior drug regulator was taken into custody, despite the reputational damage to India's pharmaceutical industry and the devastating loss of lives.

In Indore, scores fell ill, and some died after drinking poisoned municipal water. In Assam's tea gardens, contaminated groundwater has led to outbreaks of diarrhoeal disease. Similar incidents have occurred in other states. But arrests stopped at junior staff or contractors. And this is apart from repeated stories of public hospitals malfunctioning, resulting in avoidable deaths, and other cases of supervisory negligence in the real sector, where lapses have cost lives but top-level accountability has been conspicuously absent.

Transport tragedies tell a similar story. The Air India crash of 2025, which killed over 240 people, raised uncomfortable questions about whether safety systems and regulatory vigilance were adequate. Railways, too, have witnessed repeated derailments and collisions. In countries like Japan or the UK, such incidents are rare, and when they do occur, they typically trigger resignations at the highest levels. In India, however, responsibility is diffused, and arrests rarely climb beyond the lowest rung of staff. And then, there is the daily carnage on India's roads: wrong-side driving, two-wheelers on pavements, reckless speeding – all leading to more than 150,000 deaths every year. Drivers are fined, occasionally jailed. But has any traffic commissioner, municipal chief, or head of a road transport authority ever been arrested for failing to enforce the law uncompromisingly?

Urban pollution completes the picture. Thirty-nine of the world's most polluted cities are in India, with Delhi almost topping the global charts. Millions suffer, thousands die prematurely. Contractors may be fined, but pollution control boards and municipal commissioners remain untouchable.

This imbalance in approach – swift arrests of bank chiefs on mere suspicion, indulgent treatment of regulators in life-and-death sectors – is not witnessed elsewhere. In the United States, Europe, Japan, or even China, accountability mechanisms are clearer: when oversight fails, senior officials resign, are investigated, and face consequences. India's oddity lies in the selective use of custodial action, where top financial executives are paraded for optics based on mere allegations, while regulators in health, transport, and infrastructure escape scrutiny despite recorded deaths of innocents.

Why does this occur and persist? One explanation may be a colonial hangover: inherited traditions from a time when officials, mostly drawn from the colonising power, were treated as beyond the reach of consequences, while private actors were made examples of. That mindset perhaps lingers, producing a culture in which regulators are shielded, and executives are expendable. However, India's growth story cannot rest on a financial sector that outpaces a struggling real economy, nor on a regulatory culture that allows the regulators themselves to escape accountability while citizens pay the price. Should not thus the question we must ask for the next reform be whether reform lies only in changing laws for 'others', or also in tightening laws for the guardians? *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?*

THIS AND THAT

Beyond the rhetoric of war

This past week, since hostilities broke out in West Asia, the rhetoric of war has intensified and provided ready material for news headlines. The United States and Israel have unapologetically claimed responsibility for starting the war. Donald Trump first spoke about "epic fury" when he unleashed the might of his army against Iran, then denounced his enemies as "evil people", and finally called for their "total surrender".

With Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, certainly not a leader with a popular track record, killed (reportedly by a 'blue sparrow' missile), Iran has responded with matching rhetoric, retorting that its enemies would have to take their surrender expectations to their graves. The language of call and response is familiar and brings back memories of earlier conflicts. When the Gulf War broke out in 1991, a defiant Saddam Hussein described the conflict memorably as "the mother of all battles."

One week into the current war, the deaths in Iran are estimated at 1,332, and the casualties in other countries are significant, too. Six American soldiers have died in action. Reuters quotes reports saying Lebanon alone has lost 294 lives. In Iran, a missile claimed the lives of some 175 girls at a primary school. Scenes of a mass grave waiting for the children are among the grimmest to have emerged so far. These deaths are bloody and heart-wrenching, and yet the reportage is largely focused on the swagger of the players, obscuring the ugly realities on the ground. What we hear the loudest is what the warring leaders are saying, and the reports are accompanied by brief details about how many are dead. When a war is raging, we are never told the stories of those paying with their lives. Any such human story rips the glory off the conflict.

In his famous 1946 essay, George Orwell wrote about how politicians twist language to hide death and devastation. The Indian-born British novelist and journalist gained his insights from his experiences as a policeman and soldier; he wrote sharply against imperialism and totalitarianism.

S R Ramakrishna
often sees high art in kitsch and vice versa

A telling paragraph from his essay: "In our time, political speech and writing are largely the defence of the indefensible. Things like the continuance of British rule in India, the Russian purges and deportations, the dropping of the atom bombs on Japan, can indeed be defended, but only by arguments which are too brutal for most people to face, and which do not square with the professed aims of political parties. Thus political language has to consist largely of euphemism, question-begging and sheer cloudy vagueness. Defenceless villages are bombarded from the air, the inhabitants driven out into the countryside, the cattle machine-gunned, the huts set on fire with incendiary bullets: this is called *pacification*. Millions of peasants are robbed of their farms and sent trudging along the roads with no more than they can carry: this is called *transfer of population* or *rectification of frontiers*. People are imprisoned for years without trial, or shot in the back of the neck or sent to die of scurvy in Arctic lumber camps: this is called *elimination of unreliable elements*."

Orwell was deeply concerned about how language could be used to make murder 'respectable'. Out here, we in India are not unfamiliar with how inhuman acts are calibrated as acts of valour in defence of religious, caste or national honour. Everything from food supply to bus travel gets a political spin. What is described as a freebie or *revdi* when given by your opponents becomes a proud achievement if you are the one giving it. Language is the packaging with the power to sell anything.

But one hard lesson is that ground realities sometimes bring down rhetoric with a thud. Grandiose narratives may last decades, but in the world of electoral politics, even if no one calls out politicians' lies, voting patterns often reflect disapproval.

When a war breaks out, we read about how a host of geopolitical considerations come into play, and relations among countries are tried, tested and recast. Not everyone gets to know about what such conflicts mean to the arms trade. As we watch the explosions on our TV screens, read about the many technological advances in warfare, and hear about the attrition in the language of a heroic odyssey, we mustn't forget that what looks like a spectacle to us is death and destruction raining down on others.

SANS THE SACRED

Lessons from epic elopements

Weddings seem to be in the news, what with Sachin Tendulkar's son getting married, and the pictures of Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Devarakonda's wedding ceremony being impossible to miss even if you live under a rock. At the same time, we have news from Gujarat that registering marriages may soon involve parents having to be informed. This had me thinking – what if parental consent was required in epic and puranic times?

The funny thing about this parental consent rule is that some of the most celebrated weddings in the best-known Sanskrit scriptures happened without formal familial consent. It is usually not indulgent parents who are opposed to their child's choice of partner in the epics, but the elder brothers in charge who have some political alliance of their own in mind. Balarama, for instance, wished for his sister Subhadra to marry Duryodhana, who was his disciple. Subhadra, however, was in love with Arjuna, who also fell in love with her at first sight. Krishna supported Arjuna and suggested he 'kidnap' her before Balarama could arrange her wedding. After Arjuna had taken Subhadra away, Krishna managed to pacify Balarama and convince him it was a good thing. But why even go so far as Subhadra and Arjuna?

Just think about the nuptials of Krishna and Rukmini. Rukmini was the princess of Vidarbha and the daughter of King Bhishmaka. Rukmini's parents didn't mind Krishna, true, but it was her brother, Rukmi, who made all the important decisions. And he detested Krishna. He had arranged her wedding to his friend Shishupala. Rukmini, meanwhile, was far from happy at the thought of marrying Shishupala. She secretly, without parental consent (gasp!), wrote Krishna a letter saying, among other things: "I have offered my whole being to you. I have chosen you as my husband. Please don't permit Shishupala to touch what is yours, as a jackal would the feast that belongs to the lion."

On receiving her letter, Krishna confessed to the brahmin who had brought him the message: "Just as she loves me, my heart too is filled with her. I cannot even sleep at night, thinking of her." After promising to abduct Rukmini away from her family, Krishna immediately set out for Vidarbha. Balarama, who was supportive of Krishna, set out with an army to counter the kings, who, led by Rukmi, were standing at the ready to attack Krishna. As Rukmini finished her worship at the temple of Gauri and stood outside, Krishna arrived, drew her close, and lifted her onto his chariot. Rukmini's brother was so opposed to this particular matrimonial alliance that he chased the couple, attacking Krishna and swearing an oath that he would not enter his city again without killing Krishna in battle and bringing Rukmini back. And what happened then? Clearly, Rukmi could not kill Krishna or bring Rukmini back, and because of his foolish vow, he had to construct a whole new city on the outskirts of his earlier city and take up residence there.

Anusha S Rao
is the author of *How to Love in Sanskrit* and likes writing new things about very old things
@AnushaSRao2

Krishna and Rukmini proceeded to Dwaraka without any of Rukmini's relatives. But how were they to solemnise the wedding without the parents or relatives of the bride? This episode has inspired Sanskrit poets to no end, with some telling us how some Yadavas switched sides in the wedding ceremony and decided to attend as Rukmini's family!

But this story is not new, is it? Because Rukmini is known to be the incarnation of Lakshmi, the goddess of fortune and auspiciousness, this story of kidnapping without parental consent is said to be so auspicious that hearing the story wards off any obstacles to marriage today, and people arrange for discourses on this section of the *Bhagavatapurana*. In a country where "honour killings" are still a thing, adults who are marrying outside their caste, community, or religion have enough problems without our intervention in the name of protecting women. If even the puranas could celebrate eloping couples, surely today we can allow adults to choose without the government summoning their parents.

THE LIVING STREAM

Putting AI in its place

Awe and fear dart through public discussions of AI. Its fast-enveloping presence across various spheres of human activity stokes the 'What next?' in the mind. Whereas the cocky pronouncements about the imminent loss of millions of jobs due to generative AI have gone on to make the future of employment appear difficult.

And then there are the ubiquitous cliches about how every technology has pluses and minuses that ask everyone to sit back and get used to AI. In all of this, AI appears a natural, unstoppable force.

AI technologies are made, sold, and used by humans; therefore, the scope for responsible action clearly exists at every step. What these technologies seek to accomplish, how they become available to their users and what their consequences are for the democratic life of societies, therefore, invite public discussion. Just when colossal profits and international power games appeared to drive AI innovations without any regard for ethics, the recent refusal of Anthropic, the US-based AI developer, to allow the US Defence Department to deploy its AI technology for making autonomous AI-directed weapons that can decide independently of human supervision and for the mass surveillance of its citizens has kept the ethics of AI from getting eclipsed.

The cultural attitude towards AI needs to become less fearful and quiescent, and more demanding of social accountability. The owners and creators of AI technologies do strive to make them more reliable and less and less mistake-prone. But this quest to make the AI technologies more and more reliable has to go along with a parallel exploration of how best to regulate them and bring in policy measures that do not let their consequences be socially destructive.

Consider the prospect of mass job losses that hangs around like a ghost in public discussions on AI. People who have studied this subject point out that massive layoffs will not occur in the near future since the adoption of AI needs time. Plus, the removal of jobs in some areas can come along with a rise in demand for jobs in other, newer areas. Well-organised employer unions can also negotiate with their management to decide on the nature and terms of AI use in their workplace in ways that continue to engage human beings meaningfully in the workplace.

Chandan Gowda
The Vidyashilp Professor looks for new ways of looking
@Chandan_Gowda73

Just as pensions, welfare taxes and other kinds of social safety nets emerged in the 19th century to offer social insurance in the radically new circumstances brought about by industrialisation, new kinds of social insurance will become necessary to imagine to address the institutional changes emerging in the wake of generative AI.

What new responsibilities can the governments take on to address the AI-induced changes in the labour market? How can businesses profiting from AI help support the new social insurance measures that will become necessary? What new social, economic and political rights can the citizens envision to secure for themselves dignity and well-being in the changed times? Questions like these need to engage the public imagination alongside all else.

The energy-guzzling AI data centres, which are meeting their electricity needs from energy sources like coal, natural gas, wind, solar, hydro-electricity and nuclear energy, have added a new energy dynamic in the present, making the sustainable use of AI a paramount concern.

The impact of AI and the challenges of regulating it responsibly differ significantly in countries like India, where digital technologies are not accessible to all and a large number of workers remain outside the formal economy. These realities demand policy measures grounded in local conditions. Some of the policy shibboleths will need to be rethought. For instance, the pathetic urge among the planners to shift the "surplus population" from rural areas to cities by training rural youth for service occupations in cities will stand out as non-pragmatic. What's the point of training them for jobs that AI will dispense with? Measures to restore and create livelihood options in rural and tribal areas make better policy sense in the age of AI.

What if AI can think on its own? Or interact with each other on their own? Geoffrey Hinton, the Nobel laureate and 'Godfather of AI,' recently urged that AI safety institutes that make AI benevolent and desist from eliminating human beings be built, a goal that he feels can be shared by rival countries even as they compete to make their AI smarter than those of others. Let's keep thinking.

POORVA PAKSHA

Killing me softly with his song

Aakash Singh Rathore
as Dr Jekyll is a Professor of Philosophy, Politics and Law, author and editor of over 20 books and counting, and as Mr Hyde, one of India's top-ranking Ironman triathletes
@ASR_metta

'I heard he sang a good song/ I heard he had a style/ And so I came to see him/ To listen for a while.../ Killing me softly with his song'.

In Isaac Asimov's seminal 1950 sci-fi stories *I, Robot*, a set of simple rules promised to make AI robots safe and ethical. Known as the Three Laws of Robotics, they were designed to govern robots in a future where bots coexist with humans. You may have heard them: First, a robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm. Second, a robot must obey orders given by human beings, except where such orders would conflict with the First Law. Third, a robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Laws.

These rules offered a comforting illusion of human control, but Asimov wasn't presenting them as a solution to AI safety. Instead, his stories showed how even well-intentioned rules inevitably failed when confronted with real-world complexity.

The key terms prove semantically unstable: What exactly counts as "harm"? Immediate physical injury is straightforward, but what about long-term health consequences or emotional distress?

The enduring lesson from *I, Robot* is that AI ethics cannot be reduced to a set of programmable rules. Attempts to encode morality expose contradictions rather than resolving them. Dubious solutions to an existential threat – Asimov's laws, later the Asilomar AI Principles, and now the New Delhi AI Declaration – are killing us softly with their song: soothing melodies lulling us to our doom.

After Asimov showed that morality could not be coded into AI, we had to shift focus to the humans who design, build, and deploy it. Instead of rules for robots, we turn to rules for programmers and developers. This is precisely the move embodied in the Asilomar AI Principles of 2017.

Formulated by AI researchers, ethicists, and industry figures, the Asilomar Principles consist of 23 guidelines urging beneficial research, transparency, accountability, alignment with human values, shared prosperity, and avoidance of arms races or catastrophic risks. Over 1,000 experts signed on.

What we have witnessed since 2017 is that these principles are an elaborate illusion. They are unenforceable and wholly dependent on voluntary compliance. They assume that developers will slow progress for safety and prioritise collective benefit over competitive gain. In the real world of capitalism and corporate greed, this voluntarism collapses.

The very tech leaders who signed – including Elon Musk and Sam Altman – warn us of risks even while racing ahead. OpenAI's pivot to a profit-driven model shows that the alignment is with business imperatives, not ethics.

'Strumming our pain with his fingers/ Singing our life with his words/ Killing me softly with his song'.

Enter the New Delhi Declaration of 2026 (NDD26), the latest instalment in this chain of ethical illusions. Adopted at the India AI Impact Summit in February, it marked India's bid for leadership in global AI governance.

The Declaration is a brief, aspirational document drawing on Indian philosophical ideals like *Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya* (welfare and happiness for all) and the spirit of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (the world as one family). These are, of course, ideals that have proven feckless in the past, and in the present are tragically refuted by the war in West Asia. The Declaration is structured around three *sutras* – people, planet, progress – and seven *chakras*: human capital development, broadening access, trustworthiness of AI systems, energy efficiency, AI in science, democratising resources, and AI for economic growth and social good.

What NDD26 commendably adds is a pivot toward inclusion and development. Unlike Asilomar's Western-centric focus, New Delhi prioritises Global South imperatives such as bridging the digital divide and shared prosperity.

But it shares the same fundamental flaws: unenforceable and reliant on voluntary goodwill. It offers no accountability mechanisms or implementation details. Semantic instability remains: what does "trustworthiness" actually mean in practice? Like Asimov's "harm" or Asilomar's "human values," these terms invite interpretation without resolution. Geopolitically, broad endorsements amid the US-China tensions reveal performative diplomacy, while investments flow to tech corporations, embedding AI deeper into capitalist incentives.

The farce has persisted since Asimov; ethical frameworks simulate control without substance. If we are going to invoke Indian philosophical terms, then we may also recall B R Ambedkar's warning about our dominant ideology – it's a palace built on the dung heap of caste inequality. The NDD26, like its predecessors, is no different: it dresses up structural inequality as inclusion, automating apathy, social exclusion, and corporate avarice through code rather than even beginning to take the threats seriously.

'Killing me softly with his song'.

This International Women's Day, amid renewed calls for equality, a new question emerges: Is the rise of the emotionally fluent feminist man a genuine change in masculinity or merely a carefully staged performance influenced by modern dating and social media? Tanisha Saxena seeks answers

Between softness and suspicion

He carries a canvas tote printed with a feminist slogan, sips oat milk lattes while quoting bell hooks, and reads novels that win nods from every progressive book club. On Instagram, he posts long threads about emotional healing, punctuated with pastel-toned photos of rainy-window reflections. This is the performative male: Gen Z's carefully curated version of tenderness, fluent in vulnerability yet always under the gaze of an audience that admires, memes, and mistrusts him equally.

Beneath the curated gestures lies a generational tension: caught between inherited stoicism and demands for emotional fluency. Softness has become performance, vulnerability an aesthetic. In an age when every feeling can be broadcast, sincerity is as fragile as it is performative.

Caught between cultural shifts

Dr Pavitra Shankar, an associate consultant in psychiatry at Aakash Healthcare, sees the rise of the performative male as both a cultural shift and a psychological defence.

"The emergence of this figure underscores a generational clash," she says. "Gen Z men are navigating a world that encourages emotional expression even as they remain internally tethered to older expectations of stoicism."

This "embrace of softness" sits on a spectrum. For some young men, it reflects a genuine broadening of emotional intelligence. For others, she says, it functions as a compensatory performance — a carefully managed display meant to deflect the fear of appearing inadequate by traditional masculine standards. Vulnerability, once aesthetic within platform capitalism," he says, "where gestures of allyship are curated as consumable content rather than enacted as political commitments. When sensitivity is packaged through lifestyle objects and digital rituals, its critical force is absorbed by branding logics." The result, he notes, is a flattening of intention: visibility without accountability. This tension between genuine interiority and marketable selfhood lies at the heart of the crisis.

Hyper-visibility

Gen Z's identity crisis is sharpened by the hyper-surveillance of contemporary digital life, Dr Shankar notes. Many young men want to reject toxic masculinity but fear appearing performative in the process — a tension she calls "the double bind."

"They are expected to be vulnerable," she says, "but also scrutinised for how that vulnerability appears." The constant feedback loop of social media accelerates this self-monitoring, intensifying identity anxiety and leaving young men caught between sincerity and self-display. Over time, this oscillation breeds self-doubt, exhaustion, and confusion about what genuine emotional maturity even looks like.

The internet's role only heightens the internal conflict. The same platforms that champion sensitivity also parody it, with memes and TikTok trends mocking the very figure they helped create. "The cycles of admiration and mockery place young men in a precarious emotional position," Dr Shankar adds. "The fear of being ridiculed makes emotional expression feel risky, even dangerous. Many retreat into guardedness. Others double down on performance."

Dr Hashmi situates this scepticism within a broader cultural fatigue. "Contemporary scepticism toward overtly 'woke' male performances emerges from the saturation of digital spaces with self-consciously progressive gestures," he says. "The ease with which feminist discourse can be appropriated for social capital has produced a generational fatigue with moral posturing detached from accountability."

The cycles of admiration and mockery he emphasises create a complicated emotional terrain. "Gen Z's desire for yet mockery of the 'soft boy' reflects a deep tension: they crave emotionally open masculinities but distrust their performative commodification," he further adds. "Irony becomes protection; sincerity risks exposure." Either way, the cost is intimacy.

Dating: It is complicated

Relationship coach Sidhharrth S Kumaar has observed this shift in dating dynamics firsthand. While soft masculinity has ostensibly created space for emotionally attuned men, the reality, he says, is more complicated.

"In my experience, it has led to confusion — particularly for women," he says. "Seventy-five per cent of the women I've worked with say they've encountered men whose projected emotional maturity didn't match their behaviour."

For some, the discrepancy between curated vulnerability and real-life behaviour becomes painfully personal. Vridhi Thakur, a college student in Bengaluru, recalls meeting a man online whose feminist sensibilities seemed impeccable. "I met this kind of guy about six months ago, through Instagram. His posts were so full of feminist slogans that I thought, 'This might be the one.' He spoke about Woolf, had read The Yellow Wallpaper, and said Sylvia Plath was his favourite — those details drew me in. But as soon as we started meeting in person, by the fourth or fifth date, I realised how wrong I was. In practice, he turned out to be a completely conventional patriarch — dismissive when I said I wanted to start my own business. He told me maybe I could teach, but business was clearly not meant for women like me."

For Kumaar, the distinction between genuine sensitivity and performative softness lies in the consistency of action. "A man who has truly done the emotional labour does not need to display softness for approval," he says. "His empathy shows up in conflict, accountability, and the mundane parts of daily life — even when no one is watching." The mismatch between projected values and lived behaviour is becoming increasingly common, he adds. Many men adopt feminist language because it is socially advantageous in modern dating — often increasing desirability and constructing an image of a "safe" partner.

Dealing with feminist rhetoric

The tell, he says, lies in what happens during conflict and in the sharing of power. "Genuine belief shows up in how he listens when he is disagreed with, how he shares labour, how he takes accountability," he notes. "Not in the language he uses online." Some young men acknowledge that the confusion is mutual.

Mumbai-based 20-year-old Nikhil Aggarwal shares, "I think part of the confusion around dating today comes from the collision of social ideals and reality. On social media, hyper-feminist rhetoric is everywhere, often from women who are still figuring out what feminism actually means. It sets up these expectations: a man must check every box to be considered a 'good' partner. But in practice, behaviour matters far more than words or online persona. People curate their feeds, perform virtue signalling, and project progressiveness, yet in private, old patterns persist. Gen Z men and women are meeting carefully polished versions of each other, and it's no wonder dating feels confusing. We've been trying to leap to an ideal that will take centuries to achieve, and in the process, sincerity often gets lost."

Virtue signalling at home

The gap between private behaviour and public performance has become a recurring theme in modern relationships. Kumaar estimates that nearly half the couples he works with report some form of "virtue signalling" — partners who project progressive, emotionally aware personas in public but revert to avoidant or traditional patterns in private.

"It weakens trust at a deeper level than people realise," he says. "It erodes the sense that the person is who they claim to be, and that belief is foundational to intimacy." Here, too, Dr Hashmi observes the role of social privilege.

"Class, caste and urban privilege heavily mediate who can safely embody 'soft' masculinity," he says. "Men with social capital face fewer risks of stigma, allowing their vulnerability to be interpreted as progressive rather than deficient."

Softness, then, is not simply emotional expression — it is a permitted expression. "Those outside elite, metropolitan spheres may be penalised for similar expressions, reinforcing existing hierarchies," he adds.

In a generation shaped by curated selves — online and offline — the line between real tenderness and its performance is blurring. The crisis is not merely about masculinity but about identity, trust, and the search for sincerity in an age of self-presentation.

"A non-performative version of male allyship would prioritise quiet, consistent redistribution of power — sharing domestic labour, challenging misogyny, and relinquishing entitlement without seeking recognition," adds Dr Hashmi. "

For now, the performative male remains both prototype and parody, symptom and symbol — an emblem of a generation still learning to tell the difference between softness that heals and softness crafted to be seen.

The 'Performative Male' explained

- **What's driving it?** Gen Z men are caught between old stoicism and new emotional fluency. Curated softness often masks loneliness, uncertainty, and the pressure to be seen as "the good guy" in a hyper-aware culture.
- **Real emotion vs performance** Authenticity is steady and unselfconscious. Performance shifts with the audience – tender online, irritable in private, with a widening gap between words and follow-through.
- **When softness becomes strain** Gentleness turns into pressure when it becomes a requirement rather than a natural trait. Many men fear being "found out" as less evolved than their persona.
- **Masculinity or rebranding?** There is genuine change, but social media rewards aesthetics. Many young men end up curating emotional identities rather than living them.
- **Impact on women** Women welcome empathy but recognise over-polished softness. More men are trying to show up emotionally, and more women are quietly asking, is this real?

MIXED BAG

'Mixed Bag' is your Sunday potpourri — an assortment of snappy articles, engaging ideas and snackable nibbles about this and that, from here and there. Dip in!

Want to wed like a duke or a duchess? Try these!

Fans of the popular Netflix series Bridgerton, based on the Regency romance novels by Julia Quinn, have been drawn to the period decor and picturesque filming locations as much as to the drama and characters. So it's no surprise that the show has also had a big influence on weddings.

Searches for "Bridgerton wedding aesthetic" on Pinterest were up 257% this year over last February, according to the social media platform. And the show's filming locations around England are seeing a rise in visitors as well.

"The event manager at Syon Park, a popular wedding venue west of London where we filmed Lady Danbury's ball in Season 2, tells us that many of their brides mention the show and ask for the flower arrangements to be like Bridgerton," said Tony Hood, the supervising location manager for Bridgerton. He said he has seen viewers of the show regularly visiting places like the Old Royal Naval College in London, the site of Penelope and Colin's wedding in Season 3 and the city of Bath, where several scenes have been filmed.

When choosing a Bridgerton-inspired wedding space, couples should look for Regency-era architecture, which typically features white or pastel interiors, along with grand elements such as high ceilings, formal gardens and long driveways.

"The large scale of the space gives the air of rubbing shoulders with British aristocracy," Hood said.

Prices vary. Charges in high-end hotels and historic manors in London for wedding events typically start at around $300 per guest.

"For the real deal, Cliveden House in Berkshire is pure aristocratic fantasy with its opulent interiors, stunning grounds and the kind of storied history Lady Whistledown could write about for weeks," said Amos Gott, the owner of Amos Events in Nashville, Tennessee.

Cliveden House, about an hour's drive from London, was built in 1666 by George Villiers, second Duke of Buckingham, and over the years, several members of royalty and nobility have lived or stayed there.

The Langley in the picturesque county of Buckinghamshire, also an hour from London, is another option. Once a home of Charles Spencer, the third Duke of Marlborough, it was built in the mid-18th century and is now a five-star luxury hotel on 150 acres of gardens and parkland.

Positioned at the start of the famously recognisable curved facade of the Royal Crescent, which is made up of 30 homes, in Bath, No 1 Royal Crescent serves as the exterior and entrance hall of the Featherington family residence.

Built between 1767 and 1775 and

The Cliveden House in Berkshire, one of Bridgerton's key locations.
PIC COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA

first rented by Henry Sandford, a former member of Parliament from Ireland, it is now a museum and available for intimate weddings amid 18th-century art and furnishings. The site fee is about $1,400 for up to 35 guests, not including catering.

The Estate at River Run, a Georgian Revival-style brick mansion set amid lush grounds, feels more like the English countryside than the rolling hills in Maidens, Virginia. Situated on 62 acres along the James River, the property was designed to emulate historic English manor homes.

The venue is full of Regency-style rooms, including a two-story ballroom in a soft pastel colour palette, and furnished with antique chairs from the 18th-century English country house Castle Howard, which was depicted in Season 1 of Bridgerton as Clyvedon Castle, the Duke of Hastings' opulent estate. Throughout the property are neoclassical details like curved staircases, hand-painted damask wallpaper and decorative plaster ceilings inspired by antique Wedgwood china.

NYT

FEEDBACK
Like this story? Write to us at **dhonsunday@deccanherald.co.in**

ASTROSPEAK
Guruji Shrii Arnav

Scan the QR code to read the ***weekly horoscope***

A century after its publication, The Great Gatsby remains as captivating as ever, and its characters among the most memorable. Karthik Venkatesh explores its curious origins

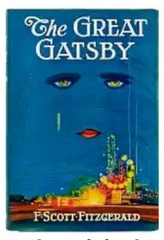
Doffing a hat to the 'OLD SPORT'

Jay Gatsby is rich. Jay Gatsby is suave. Jay Gatsby is well-spoken. Jay Gatsby throws the greatest parties.

Jay Gatsby is a murderer. Jay Gatsby is a bootlegger. Jay Gatsby is a fake.

Who the hell is Jay Gatsby?

A hundred years after its publication, the mystery at the heart of this exquisite novel by F Scott Fitzgerald continues to intrigue its readers. Gatsby, his doomed love, Daisy Buchanan and the novel's befuddled narrator, Nick Carraway, are among fiction's most memorable characters and the novel itself, among the most loved.



The original 1925 book cover with the 'sad-looking' eyes.

Scott Fitzgerald.
(PIC COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA)

The making

F Scott Fitzgerald, the writer, was something of a precocious sensation. His first novel, This Side of Paradise, published when he was not yet 24, was a smash hit. In its first week of publication, it sold 20,000 copies. The Beautiful and the Damned, published in 1922, was just as successful.

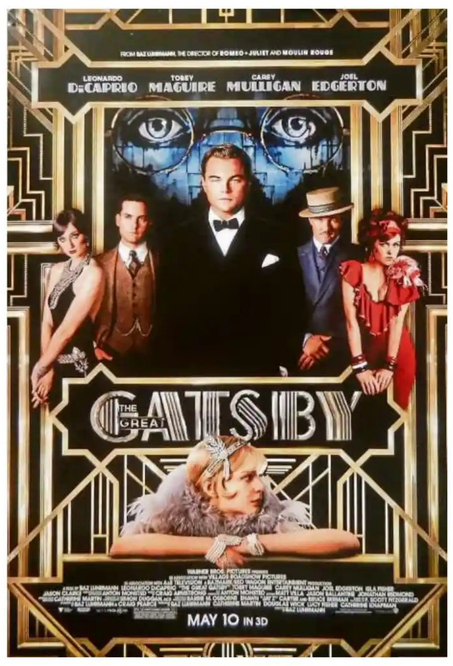
And then the author went off the rails — drinking far too much, living it up and writing far too little.

By April 1924, even as his publishers awaited his third novel, he was nowhere near finished, and a flurry of letters went back and forth between the writer and his anxious publishers. Fitzgerald's editor, Maxwell Perkins, prodded and coaxed him to finish 'Among the Ash-Heaps and Millionaires' (the original title). By June, Fitzgerald promised, only to break it. Weeks of silence and suspense. No one knew where the novel was at. And no one wanted to ask.

In late October, though, Perkins received a package from France (where Fitzgerald was living then). It contained the manuscript of 'Trimalchio at West Egg', the new title, which Fitzgerald was very insistent upon. Compared to his previous novels, this one was short — only 50,000 words. It was done ... or was it? Nonplussed, Perkins got to work, nevertheless.

The hero behind the novel

In 1924, Maxwell Perkins was in his late thirties and had been with Scribner's (Fitzgerald's publishers) for close to a decade-and-a-half, initially in their advertising department before switching to editing. Scribner's was a staid and conservative publisher, content to stick to their knitting, publishing ponderous worthies like John Galsworthy and Henry James. In 1919, Perkins had fought his grey-headed fellow editors to be allowed to publish Fitzgerald.



The poster of the 2013 movie.
(PIC COURTESY: IMDB)

The success of This Side of Paradise had muted all opposition. Now, he had to wrestle editorially with Fitzgerald's latest.

The length of the novel did not bother Perkins. But there was way too much mystery around Gatsby in Fitzgerald's first draft. Recognising that this was at the heart of the novel's plot, Perkins did not seek to change it fundamentally. Instead, he urged Fitzgerald to insert 'little touches of various kinds' that tantalisingly accentuated Gatsby's mysterious persona and hinted at the source of his fabulous fortune. There were other plot-related embellishments that Perkins proffered. Fitzgerald argued his case, in particular for the final scene of denouement at the Plaza Hotel, that brings together most of the novel's loose ends. Perkins complied on some, insisted on some.

Fitzgerald, as always, was living beyond his means, and now that the manuscript was delivered, requested an advance payment. By now, he was up to his ears in the advances he had extracted from Scribner's. But Perkins, as he would do, time and again, persuaded his finance department to wire the money to the writer.

Soon, even as 1924 gave way to 1925, Fitzgerald responded to Perkins' edits and also accepted his suggestion for the title. The novel would thus go forth into the world in April 1925, titled The Great Gatsby.

The reception

As it stands, going by the sales of the novel on publication, Gatsby performed poorly. It sold less than 20,000 copies in its first year. Its tepid reception had much to do with Fitzgerald's descent into alcoholism and melancholia and his early death in 1940.

However, during World War II, the novel's popularity boomed. It was shipped in large numbers to US soldiers serving overseas. Later in the 1950s, it made its way into academia and came to be regarded as the quintessential 'Great American Novel'. Its 1925 cover featuring sad-looking eyes (painted by Francis Cugat) almost became as famous as the novel itself. *(see pic)*

Over the years, there have been several movie versions — the first one in 1926 (since lost). Subsequent versions were made in 1949, 1974, 2000 and 2013. The 1974 version starring Robert Redford and Mia Farrow is widely regarded as the best. The recent 2013 version starring Leonardo DiCaprio as Gatsby also featured Amitabh Bachchan as Meyer Wolfsheim, Gatsby's associate. The 2000 version, panned as the weakest, featured Toby Stephens of *Lagaan* fame as Gatsby.

As the novel finds newer readers, Gatsby's signature phrase 'old sport' awaits adoption by a whole new generation.

The Gatsby aesthetic is a contemporary internet subculture inspired by the opulence of the 1920s and influenced by the Art Deco style portrayed in the novel.

Stripping grief of its romanticism

This is an evocative work, a brave act of remembrance, that teaches us what it means to hold our own hand through loss, writes Anjali Chauhan

In Learning To Make Tea For One, Andaleeb Wajid compels us to return to a moment in history that many of us have tried hard to forget — the terrifying, deadly, disorienting days of the Covid-19 pandemic. With aching intimacy and a quietly piercing grief, she recounts the personal tragedy of losing her husband and mother-in-law to the virus. But this is not just a memoir of loss; it is a deeply human exploration of love, longing, memory, and the silent labour of grieving as a woman, a mother, a widow and lastly, as a writer.

The memoir does not sensationalise grief. Instead, it lingers in the ordinariness of it. Wajid takes us through the slow, mundane days after death. What makes this memoir striking is how it resists the temptation of closure or neat moral lessons. Wajid does not claim to have found healing or closure. Instead, she offers us fragments, memories of her husband's quirks, the early days of their marriage, the rhythms of their shared life, and the rupture that followed. Through these fragments, we come to know not just the man she loved, but the woman she becomes after he is gone.

LEARNING TO MAKE TEA FOR ONE
Andaleeb Wajid
Speaking Tiger,
pp 232, Rs 399

However, grief does not lend itself easily to narrative. To relive trauma, to put pain into words, and then to open those words to the world is an act of profound vulnerability. Wajid takes that risk with Learning To Make Tea For One, much like Vidya Krishnan does in her recent memoir White Lilies. Both books grapple with themes of loss and mourning, but their tonal registers are strikingly different. Where Krishnan writes with visible rage, her grief sharpened into a political indictment exposing the larger power dynamics of our society, Wajid's approach is gentler, embedded in the mundane, and more inward-looking. Yet both offer searing honesty, stripping grief of its romanticism and exposing its bare, complicated truths.

What sets Wajid's memoir apart is the expansive emotional arc she traces. She does not confine her story to the pandemic or to her husband's death. Instead, she opens the door to her life, beginning with her childhood and her first experience of loss when her father died. She writes candidly about her marriage — a union between two distinctly different personalities who eventually settled into a tender companionship. There is no glossing over the dissonances or difficulties. Wajid explores the various textures of guilt that accompany grief, but also her privileges: the guilt of surviving along with the privilege of having access to medical care when others around her were gasping for breath, the guilt of not being with her husband enough, along with the privilege of retreating from everyday responsibilities while she gathered the strength to carry on after he passed. Her honesty is unsparing, yet never performative. She does not seek sympathy but only to tell the truth as she experienced it.

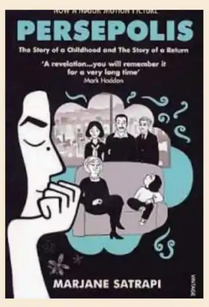
She writes with rare honesty about the deeply gendered nature of mourning. She is appalled not just by the weight of her grief, but by how swiftly those around her, relatives and well-wishers alike, attempted to reframe her sorrow within a patriarchal script. Their sympathy came laced with expectation: that she must now "live for her children," as though her own existence were secondary, defined only through the roles she plays for others. Her pain, her personhood, seemed to matter less than the performance of maternal resilience. Wajid reflects, with sharp clarity, that had she been the one to die, the same people would likely have advised her husband to remarry. These double standards lay bare the quiet violence of gendered grief, where a woman's loss is never hers alone, and her healing must always serve someone else. It is in this moment that the title of her memoir, Learning To Make Tea For One, resonates most powerfully: it marks a turning inward, a reclaiming of self, and the slow, painful practice of making space for one's own presence, in solitude.

To learn to make tea for one is no small thing. In doing so, Wajid teaches us what it means to hold our own hand through loss. In a world that rushes women through grief, Wajid lingers. Her memoir is a gentle yet defiant act of remembrance, of reclaiming space for sorrow, survival, and selfhood.

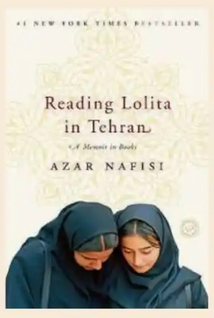
SPEED READS

Amid the war and the heightened tensions in West Asia, it is a good time to update ourselves about Iran. Alongside political histories, these books offer a far more intimate window into Iranian life.

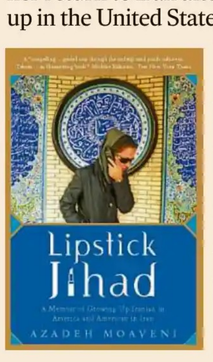
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi: This celebrated graphic memoir recounts Satrapi's childhood in Tehran during and after the 1979 Iranian Revolution. In stark black-and-white illustrations, the author captures daily life in Tehran and combines it with humour and political insight.



Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi: This book follows Nafisi, a literature professor who secretly gathers women students in her Tehran home to read Western novels after the Revolution. Their discussions of works like Lolita and The Great Gatsby become a way to talk about freedom, identity and repression. Part reflection, part memoir, it is a powerful cry against authoritarianism.



Lipstick Jihad by Azadeh Moaveni: The author, a journalist, chronicles her return to Iran after growing up in the United States, describing the tensions of being both Iranian and Western. The memoir is a sharp take on gender and fashion, dating and the many contradictions of modern Iran and how Iranians navigate State-imposed restrictions.



Speed Reads is a column for the bookworm who is short on time and reads on the go.

THAT ONE BOOK

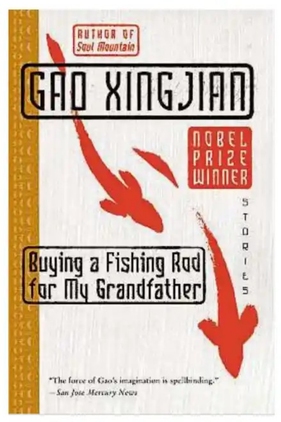
A solitary pursuit of the unattainable

This is not an easy read, but surrender to Gao's voice, and you're in for a strange, unforgettable adventure quite unlike any other in 20th-century literature, writes Saudha Kasim

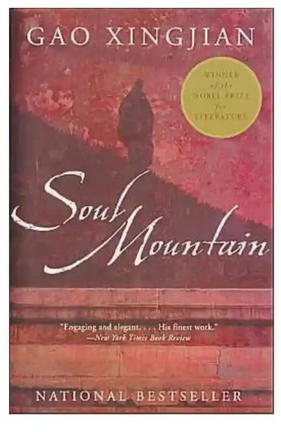
Gao Xingjian.
(PIC COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA)

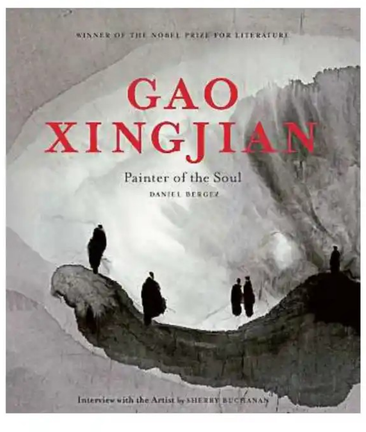
Gao Xingjian's Soul Mountain, first published in Chinese in 1990 and translated into English by Mabel Lee in 2000, is not an easy read. In fact, it's one of those books that seem to give meat to the argument that the Nobel Literature Prize committee tends to reward little-known writers whose works could never be classified as page-turners. Gao won the award in 2000, becoming the first Chinese author to do so. The committee commended him "for an œuvre of universal validity, bitter insights and linguistic ingenuity, which has opened new paths for the Chinese novel and drama."

Soul Mountain is a deeply personal narrative, inspired by Gao's own journeys in 1983 through Sichuan province and along the Yangtze River following a lung cancer diagnosis that turned out to be false and increasing persecution by the authorities for his non-conformist work that they claimed to be "pernicious" and causing "spiritual pollution". The manuscript was the one he carried with him when he left for Paris in 1987, in permanent exile from the country of his birth.


AUTHOR OF Soul Mountain
GAO XINGJIAN
NOBEL PRIZE WINNER
STORIES
Buying a Fishing Rod for My Grandfather
"The force of Gao's imagination is spellbinding."
—San Jose Mercury News

That homeland, with its rich and complicated history, folktales, and political and environmental upheavals, is woven into the narrative of Soul Mountain. The chapters, short, chaotic and brutal, mostly alternate between two figures — the "I", a direct stand-in for the author and who, like Gao, has just been wrongly diagnosed with lung cancer and a "You" who is also the author, but at a remove. The two characters diverge in their quests — while the "I" inhabits a real landscape (the Qinghai-Tibetan highlands, the Sichuan basin), the "You" seems to be moving in an alternate reality in pursuit of a mountain called Lingshan (the Soul Mountain of the title), one conjured up in the imagination of the "I". "You", in turn, creates a female companion or companions, and there are various sexual encounters and tall tales exchanged between the lovers that capture obscure parts of the brutal political history of the land and the subjugation of its most vulnerable residents.




WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE
GAO XINGJIAN
Painter of the Soul
DANIEL BERGEZ
Interview with the Artist by SHERRY BUCHANAN

At times it can be overwhelming — the vignettes of Chinese history, the Buddhist and Daoist religious philosophising, tricky shamans and vengeful goddesses and violent pandas, the ways in which the self and the environment (the forests, the rivers) have been forced to submit to authoritarian rule. As "I" wanders among his people and finds himself to be even more alienated, he despairs: "The self is in fact the source of mankind's misery." It's no wonder, in a desire to dispel with his acute loneliness that "I" invents the "You" and more than halfway through the book, Gao/ "I" sets out his reasons for doing so: "In this lengthy soliloquy you are the object of what I relate, a myself who lists intently to me — you are simply my shadow."

In these times when readers' attention spans tend to be diminished, does it make sense to recommend a book as dense and demanding as Soul Mountain? I'd say yes — the short chapters can be read quickly, and even if at first it confounds the reader, sticking with it ensures that the writer's intention, to show how even the most oppressive political regimes cannot destroy the artistic imagination but instead seem to fire it up, makes itself apparent. Surrender to Gao's voice — or rather the multiplicity of his voices — in Soul Mountain and you're in for a strange, unforgettable adventure, quite unlike any other in 20th-century literature.

That One Book *is a monthly column that does exactly what it says — it takes up one great classic and tells you why it is (still) great. The author is a writer and communications professional. She blogs at saudha.substack.com*

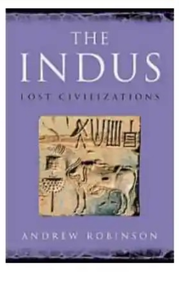
READ OF THE WEEK

The Indus Valley civilisation, one of the oldest in Central and South Asia, flourished for half a millennium from about 2600 to 1900 BC, when it mysteriously declined and vanished from view. It remained invisible for almost 4,000 years, until its ruins were discovered in the 1920s by British and Indian archaeologists. Today, after almost a century of excavation, it is regarded as the earliest Indian civilisation.

More than a thousand Indus settlements covered at least 800,000 square kilometres of what is now Pakistan and India: it was the most extensive urban culture of its age, with a vigorous maritime export trade to the Persian Gulf. Astonishingly, there is no evidence of armies or warfare.

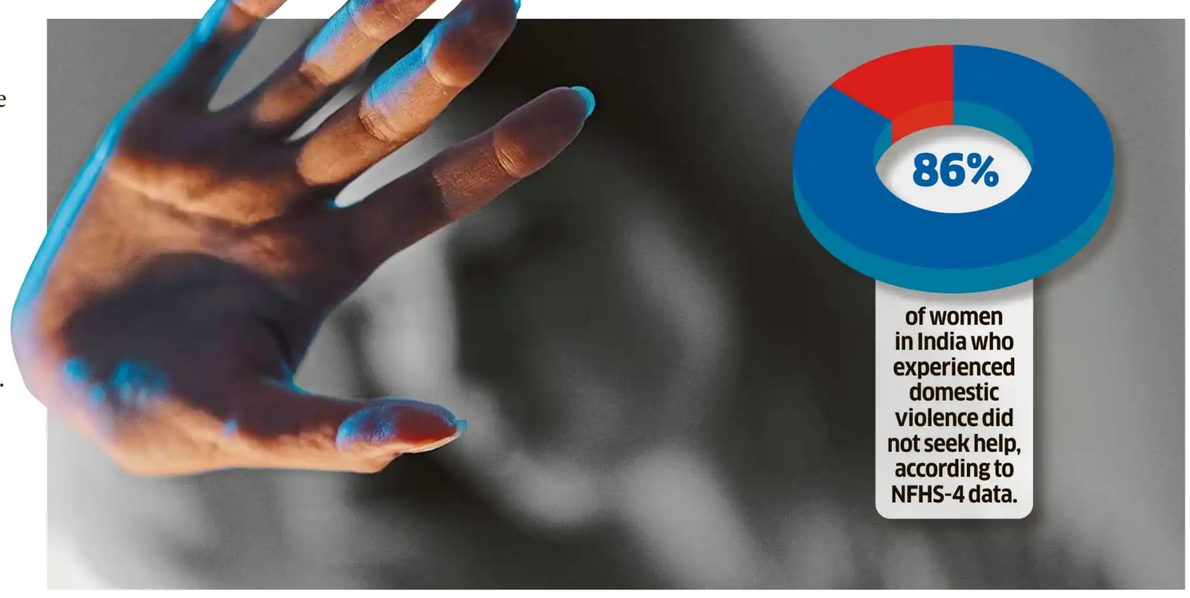
The Indus: Lost Civilizations is an accessible introduction to every significant aspect of an extraordinary and tantalising 'lost' civilisation that apparently combined artistic excellence, technological sophistication and economic vigour with social egalitarianism, political freedom and religious moderation. The book also discusses the vital legacy of the Indus civilisation in modern India and Pakistan.

Andrew Robinson is the author of some 25 books on the arts and sciences, and writes for *Current World Archaeology*, *The Lancet*, *Nature* and *Science*. He has been a Visiting Fellow at the University of Cambridge and is a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society.



A recent ad featuring senior actor Gajraj Rao, based on a real-life incident involving a father escorting his daughter back from an abusive marriage, went viral. While it still reinforces a familiar trope of a man rescuing a woman, the ad suggests that India is beginning to speak about abuse, writes Smitha Murthy

Whose shame IS IT ANYWAY?



An ad campaign has recently triggered an intense conversation around domestic violence on social media. Featuring Gajraj Rao as the father, the ad opens to him taking a call from his daughter. He is visibly distressed; "phir se?" he asks. From then on, the ad takes us through parallel timelines. One where he is leading a wedding baraat. Another that takes him through society's reactions to his daughter's abuse. She has to "adjust." Not his responsibility. Think of his other children.

Yet, toward the end of the ad, Gajraj reaches his daughter's house with the band baaja procession — this time, to lead his daughter home, celebrating her. "Ye na koi parai hai, nahi dhan" — "She is my own, and nobody's wealth."

This ad went viral, garnering more than three million views in the first seven days. It's based on a similar story of a father who escorted his daughter back from an abusive marriage in Uttar Pradesh. In a country that has normalised silence, the applause this ad has received is extraordinary.

India isn't new to abuse. What's new is that we are beginning to speak about it.

According to the 2019–2021 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), 32 per cent of ever-married women in India reported experiencing physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their current or former husband. From NFHS-4 data, about 86 per cent of women in India who experienced domestic violence did not seek help, and about 77 per cent did not even mention the incident to anyone.

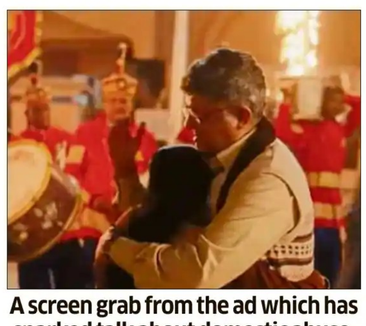
HELPLINES

- **Women's Helpline: 181** (government, 24x7)
- **NCW Helpline: 14490**
- **Shakti Shalini: 011-24373737 / 7838957810** (10 AM–6 PM, ALL DAYS)

Abuse and silence

Shame must change sides, said Gisele Pelicot, the survivor in the Mazan rape trial in France. But here, shame for abuse is often on the survivor, not on the abuser. Ishaa Vinod Chopra is a survivor, writing in her memoir, 'Finding Order in Disorder', about the scars of domestic violence. "I sustained a severe back injury — two blows to my spine," she says, describing the horrors of her abusive marriage. "The issue with physical abuse is that it results in most cases in PTSD, where the mind-body experience is altered. There is a physical injury as well as a mental trauma: this blurs the lines of reality," Ishaa explains. She acknowledges that women and families hesitate to name or confront abuse.

In a 2024 study of over 2,000 women in West Bengal, 71 per cent of women reported that they compromised because divorce or separation would mean losing financial support or shelter. And what about families? Often, the 'log kya kahenge' mentality is too deep-rooted. Families are typically the first to counsel silence. The same study above notes that 46 per cent of natal family members argued that


A screen grab from the ad which has sparked talk about domestic abuse.

women had to compromise with violence since the marital family hadn't met their dowry demands. Ishaa adds that "someone may not have the mental strength to leave, as the family advises her against it, or to 'keep trying'. Often, the abusive and/or violent behaviour and rage of a man is blamed on a woman's verbal responses and ability to 'keep a man happy' at any cost. Women are told to suppress their feelings and emotions to align with their partner's demands, or sold false narratives as "it takes two hands to clap."Most women are not even aware of domestic violence laws. I have heard at least two women who work as domestic workers express distress about their abusive husbands. The wives don't want to seek help. To them, this is life. "At least, he doesn't beat me every day. Only when drunk," they explain.

And so they survive. Bruised and battered. Shamed and ostracised for being the victim. But just like shame must change sides, so too must silence. In the ad, the father takes the daughter back. Yet, it still reinforces a familiar trope: A man saves and protects the woman.

One day, we may see an ad where the woman walks out. Or the mother comes to take her back. Or, where society shuns the abuser and throws the man out. Because right now the narrative is not "log kya kahenge" but "log kuch nahi kahenge."

Women in leadership: MIND THE GAP

REJI VARGHESE & MADHURI MENON

"That's not the way a girl sits," "what a mess you make while eating," — these are just a few of the statements made to the daughter, while the son is allowed to make, as well as leave the mess he has made. As the daughter grows older, the internalising of messages becomes more subtle and nuanced, but the intent is clear — there are strict codes and expectations of gender-based behaviour.

Across cultures, stereotypes are established early, right from the choice of colour: pink for girls and blue for boys. Girls are expected to be docile, subordinate, sweet and permitted to cry. Boys are told not to "cry like a girl." Multiple generations of women have learned these lessons which create self-doubt and self-imposed limitations and a belief that authority belongs to men. The result is that Indian businesses face difficulties in promoting women to leadership positions in spite of having a large female workforce.

According to psychologist Dr Trinjhna Khattar, "Marriage, parenthood, caring for young children or ageing parents bring competing priorities. After years in the workforce, many women begin to question their purpose. Social conditioning still expects women to be nurturers making it much harder for them to handle a demanding job, compared to men."

Explains Dr Khattar, "One of the common gender stereotypes around women's employment world over is that women don't aspire to leadership roles. When young women join organisations right after college, they are bubbling with energy and raring to go. At this stage, they are on par with men. However, society reinforces stereotypical roles such as the perfect daughter, wife, mother and daughter in law. When this is coupled with efforts to be the perfect employee as well, there is not just role incongruity, but also high levels of stress."

Women and the workforce

Explains Priya Ramesh, co-founder of a Chennai-based leadership coaching, development, and empowerment firm and a Master Certified Coach (MCC), "Women leave their jobs at higher rates between ages 25 and 40 because they experience multiple life changes, which include getting married, starting a family and caring for their children, in-laws and elderly parents. Women face special challenges during this life stage because of traditional social norms and expectations and often lack of support systems within the family or externally — for instance, absence of reliable day-care facilities, domestic help, affordable professional health care support providers etc."

Indian businesses face difficulties in promoting women to leadership roles in spite of having a large female workforce.

A joint study by LinkedIn and The Quantum Hub found that although women make up 26.8 per cent of the Indian workforce, only 18.3 per cent manage to reach senior leadership roles. The disparity grows sharper at the very top. The KPMG–AIMA Women in Leadership in Corporate India 2024 report shows that women hold a mere 12 per cent of C-suite roles nationwide, which places India among the lowest globally for executive-level gender parity. The study also found that 56 per cent of organisations have only between 10 and 30 per cent women in leadership, while nearly 9 per cent of companies have no female leaders at all.

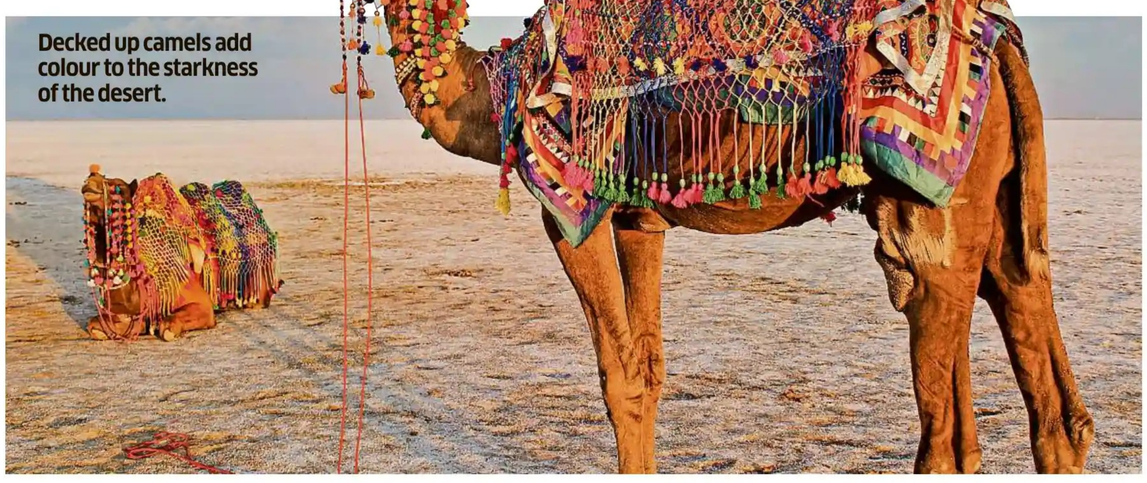
An HR advisory firm, Marching Sheep, released an Inclusion Index in 2025, which analysed 840 listed companies across 30 sectors and found that organisations with women in top leadership roles achieved 50 per cent higher profit-after-tax results compared to those without. Yet, 63.45 per cent of these companies had no women in key managerial positions, and women formed just 22 per cent of their total workforce.

Closing the gender gap

Even HR policies in organisations can be subtly discriminating. Women are usually promoted by proven capability while men are promoted on potential. If India is serious about tapping into its full talent pool, women's participation must go beyond token representation. Closing this gap calls for a reimagining of leadership itself, and a shift from hierarchy to inclusivity.

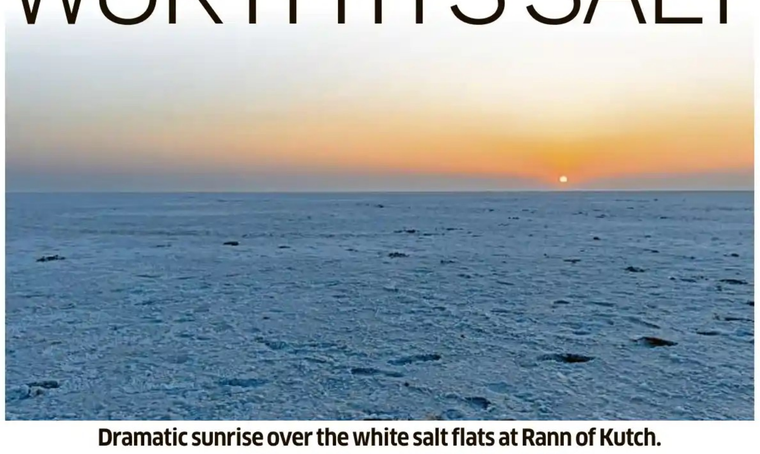
(Reji Varghese is the president of a fixture building company. Madhuri Menon is the former dean of non-profit engaged in research, training, capacity building and academics.)

Travel


Decked up camels add colour to the starkness of the desert.

Rann of Kutch: WORTH ITS SALT

Salt flats, ancient settlements, craft villages and cultural festivals make the Rann of Kutch a must-visit, writes Shweta Dravid


Dramatic sunrise over the white salt flats at Rann of Kutch.

There is a moment, and everyone who has stood on the Great Rann of Kutch will tell you this, when the ground beneath your feet becomes a mirror stretching to the horizon, reflecting the sky so perfectly that it is hard to tell where the earth ends and the heavens begin. I reached the salt flats near Dhordo just after five, the sun already low, everything washed in copper, and I just stopped. No urge to photograph it or even speak. Just that rare, slightly unsettling feeling of being very small in something very large. The Rann does that to you.

Located in the far northwest of Gujarat, the Rann, literally meaning "salt marsh" in Hindi, is one of the world's largest seasonal salt deserts, spanning nearly 26,000 sq km. For much of the year, it lies submerged under monsoon floodwaters. From October onwards, as the water recedes, it reveals a vast, blindingly white expanse of salt-encrusted earth, flat, hushed, and unlike any other landscape in India.

Yet, the Rann is not an empty wilderness. Life gathers at its edges, where ancient settlements coexist with pastoral communities and heritage craft villages. It is within these margins that the Rann opens up as a travel destination. Here is everything you need to know to explore this ancient, otherworldly land beyond its white expanse:

Head to Dhordo

The Great Rann of Kutch is where you begin. The main entry point for tourists is the village of Dhordo, about 80 km from Bhuj, from where a short drive or a camel cart ride takes you to the edge of the white desert. It is best experienced early morning or late afternoon, when the salt flats shift dramatically with changing light, temperature, and cloud cover. But it is the full moon nights that people lose their minds over. The entire expanse glows silver, cool and lunar, and the sky is covered with stars.

Climb Kalo Dungar

Kalo Dungar, or Black Hill, is Kutch's highest point at 462 metres and a sharp contrast to the flat infinity of the Rann. The drive up is excellent, with views widening as you climb, and from the top, you can see the entire salt desert.

There is a 400-year-old temple to Lord Dattatreya at the summit, accompanied by one of those genuinely unusual legends that the Lord himself fed his body to a pack of starving jackals here, regenerating endlessly to keep them fed. Today, the temple priests continue the tradition of feeding jackals every evening at sunset.

Explore Dholavira

Located on the island of Khadir Bet in the middle of the Rann, Dholavira is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the five largest cities of the Indus Valley Civilisation. Getting there is half the experience. The road from Khavda to Dholavira, a 30-kilometre stretch of tarmac with open salt flats on either side, feels less like a drive and more like a passage to another world entirely. Some people call it the 'Road to Heaven,' and on a clear winter morning with the light bouncing off the salt, it is not hard to see why.

Learn all about Kutchi craft

The craft villages scattered across Kutch are the district's other great gift to the traveller. Bhujodi, just outside Bhuj, is a whole village of weavers producing the famous Kutchi shawls and rugs. Nirona is where you find Rogan art, a 400-year-old tradition of painting on fabric with castor oil-based paint, now continued by just one family in the world, the Khattris. The village of Ajrakhpur is dedicated to Ajrakh block-printing, a craft with roots going back over 4,000 years.

Venture into the wild side

Kutch is a haven for wildlife enthusiasts, thanks to its mix of salt deserts, wetlands, and grasslands that support a surprising range of species. The Chhari Dhandh Wetland Reserve, near Dhordo, is an important wintering ground for migratory birds such as flamingos, cranes, and pelicans, while the Kutch Bustard Sanctuary remains one of the last refuges of the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard. The most distinctive wildlife experience lies in the Little Rann of Kutch Wildlife Sanctuary. This is the only place in the world where the Asiatic wild ass can be seen in its natural habitat.

Cultural bonanza

Every year from mid-November to mid-March, the Gujarat government transforms Dhordo into a luxury tent city. This cultural festival brings together folk music and dance performances, craft bazaars, regional cuisine, and guided excursions onto the Great Rann, creating a snapshot of Kutch's cultural life in one place. It is a must-do for first-time visitors looking for a curated introduction to the Rann.

A city in bloom

VISSA VENKATA SUNDAR

Each year, as winter loosens its grip and spring quietly arrives in the capital, New Delhi undergoes a breathtaking transformation. Along the diplomatic boulevard of Shantipath and across the manicured stretches of Lutyens' Delhi, a riot of colour unfurls in perfect synchrony. Tulip Festival—Delhi's tribute to the iconic Dutch bloom—turns the city into a fleeting slice of Europe, where thousands of tulips burst into brilliant reds, cheerful yellows, soft pinks, regal purples and pristine whites.

For two short weeks, the capital becomes a living canvas. Cars slow—not from congestion, but from wonder. Families pause along flower-lined pavements, cyclists halt mid-ride, and photographers crouch low to capture the blooms against the stately backdrop of embassies and tree-lined avenues. Even routine commutes feel transformed into scenic drives.

Behind this spectacle lies months of meticulous planning. The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) prepares the soil, selects high-quality bulbs from its own nursery and provided annually by the Netherlands Embassy, and times the planting so the blooms arrive in a harmonious chorus with spring. The Netherlands, long regarded as the world's tulip capital, has elevated the flower into a cultural emblem—immortalised in Dutch Golden Age paintings by artists such as Rachel Ruysch, whose intricate still lifes captured both beauty and transience.

This year, over five lakh bulbs were planted across roundabouts and central verges, creating sweeping patterns of colour that draw visitors from across the city and the country. Tulips bloom in astonishing variety, from classic Single Earlies and sturdy Triumphs to elegant Lily-flowered, ruffled Parrot, fringed, bi-coloured, and late-flowering hybrids, each offering its own distinct charm. Tulips, though delicate in appearance, demand precision and patience to grow. Their brief flowering makes them all the more special, a reminder that beauty often lies in its impermanence.

Tulips adding colour to the cityscape.
(PHOTOS BY AUTHOR)

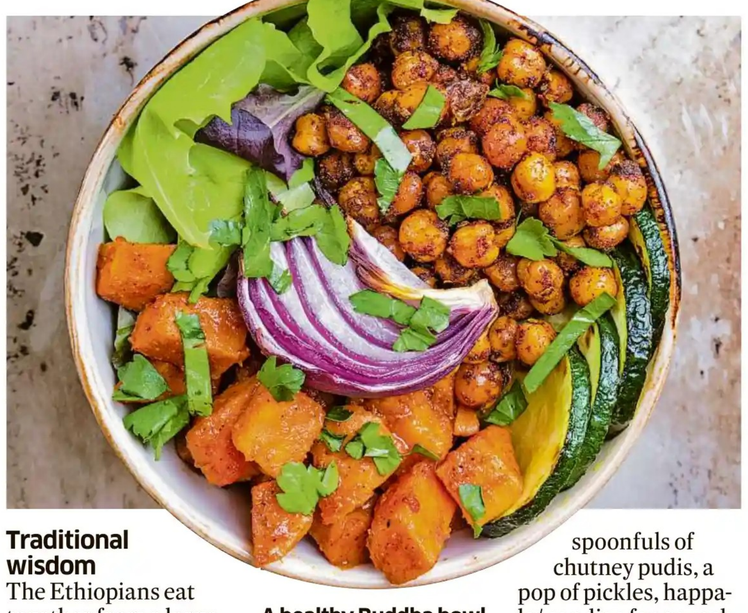
What makes the Tulip Festival truly enchanting is its accessibility. There are no tickets, no gates—just open roads adorned with flowers, inviting everyone to share in the seasonal joy. Over the years, the display has become more than ornamental landscaping; it is a much-awaited urban ritual, signalling spring's arrival in the capital.

For children, it is an outdoor classroom of colours; for families, a cherished photo opportunity; for many others, simply a reason to pause.

For two luminous weeks, Delhi doesn't just witness spring—it wears it.

Bowled OVER!

Bowl meals create a medley of textures and flavours, with grains, greens, pickles, proteins and a finishing sauce coming together. To make the most of a bowl meal, all you need to do is replace global ingredients with what grows around you. Ranjini Rao gives a 'bowl-by-bowl' account of how to assemble such meals



A healthy Buddha bowl with sweet potato, chickpeas and salad leaves.

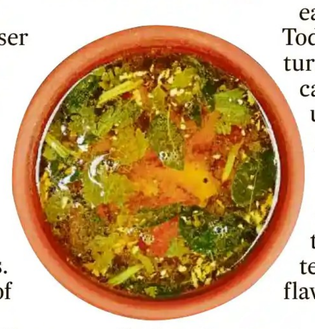
THE GREEN THEORY

Having recently hosted a Supper Club event with a Buddha Bowl as the star of the meal, I caught myself decoding the concept of the meal-in-a-bowl. As for its origins, there's a hint in the book, 'Buddha's Diet', by Dan Zigmond and Tara Cottrell.

"Buddha woke up before dawn every morning and carried his bowl around. Local people would place food in the bowl as a donation, and at the end he would eat whatever he had been given," it says.

Traditional wisdom

The Ethiopians eat together from a large, shared platter of injera and stews, lentils, sauteed veggies and simmered meats. Closer home, the "kai tuttu" concept, drawn from the idea of bowl food and communal eating, was always the hero meal during my own childhood, especially at my maternal grandmother's. She'd throw morsels of whatever was left-over into a bowl: rice, dal, veggies, a dollop of ghee, spoonfuls of chutney pudis, a pop of pickles, happala/ sandige for crunch, raw onion, mix it all up and serve us a fistful each.



You can use the tomato saaru as a sauce and build your own bowl with regional favourites.

Today, bowl meals have turned into adaptable canvases in the daily urban diet, where grains, greens, pickles, proteins, and a finishing sauce come together to create different textures and umami flavours. To make the most of the bowl meal, replace global ingredients with what grows around us. Swap quinoa for millets; replace imported salad greens with a crunchy heap of beet greens, methi and arugula; top with a spoonful of pudina chutney or say, a dressing made with hung curd. With some prep-ahead, bowl meals can turn into weekly staples for dietary diversity, gussied up with various regional components. A single bowl comprises different vegetables, a whole grain, legumes or small amounts of fish/eggs, seeds or nuts or papads for crunch, and a fermented condiment, covering macro and micronutrients.

Good for the planet and the gut

From a sustainability perspective, bowls can reduce waste. They encourage portion control, make good use of leftovers (roasted vegetables, rice, a few spoonfuls of dal), and invite root-to-seed cooking. Locally sourced seasonal ingredients have low carbon footprints, but, of course, "local" isn't a universal cure. Greenhouse-intensive crops or energy-heavy production cycles can offset transport savings, but centering meals around local seasons and low-input staples is a sound rule of thumb.

Bowl meals allow regional flavours to shine: for instance, taking inspiration from Karnataka's tomato saaru as a sauce, choosing stir-fried soppus over salad greens, or a leftover rice makeover with lemon, peanuts and shredded coconut, with tamarind thokku on the side and papads crushed on top for extra crunch. This spectrum of adaptability makes bowls the bearers of the story of place, farmers, markets, and traditional recipes.

(Ranjini is a communications professor, author, and podcaster, straddling many other worlds, in Bengaluru. She's passionate about urban farming and sustainable living, and can mostly be found cooking and baking in her little kitchen, where, surrounded by heirloom coffee kettles and mismatched tea cups, she finds her chi.)

BUILD YOUR OWN BOWL

Ingredients:
- Foxtail millets and rice shavige/semiya
- Togarikaalu or avarekaalu
- Kempu harive soppu – red amaranthus
- Methi/ mustard microgreens
- Peanut chutney pudi
- Sandige/ papad
- Congress kadlekai
- Tamarind and peanut dressing
- Roasted seeds (sabja, pumpkin, sesame)
- Coconut slices
- Eggs

Method:
- Wash and soak the foxtail millets for 2 hours, boil with salt and a bit of oil, make sure it is fluffy and not too soft or sticky (run it under cold water and spread it on a large plate).
- Keep the rice semiya/ shavige ready – it should not be sticky.
- Steam the avarekalu with bit of salt.
- Wash and chop the red amaranthus soppu; braise it in some ghee with a smashed pod of garlic. Season with salt and pepper.
- Fry the papad/ sandige and keep it ready.
- Keep the chutney pudi and congress peanuts ready.
- Roast the seeds; keep coconut slices ready.
- Boil and halve the eggs, drizzle salt and pepper.
- For tamarind-peanut dressing, boil tamarind juice, salt, red chilli powder, chaat masala, jaggery powder, powdered roasted peanuts, add a drizzle of groundnut oil, and mix well. Once it becomes less runny and slightly thick, turn off the heat.
- Scoop out all the above ingredients as per your preference in a bowl, drizzle the dressing, and enjoy.

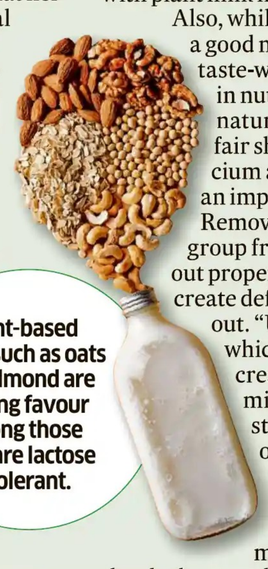
PLANT-BASED MILK for your cuppa?

DEEPA NATARAJAN LOBO

Ever felt bloated or uneasy after your daily cup of coffee or that late-night glass of milk? Often, the culprit is not the caffeine or the timing, but the lactose present in dairy. This has meant that many people go vegan and opt for plant forward substitutes starting with milk.

Take this media professional who goes by her initials, NP, for instance. She switched to plant milk for her teas and coffees when she realised that her body wasn't able to digest animal milk. "Even a Vietnamese iced coffee with condensed milk was having adverse reactions on my health," she adds. She now uses almond milk in everything, from her morning protein shake to ginger tea.

She isn't alone. With reports stating that a large number of Indians are lactose-intolerant and awareness around the subject growing, there is an influx of plant-based milks in the market. Gentler, lighter and lower in calories, they are finding favour with a new wave of health-conscious consumers. Gauravi Vinay, a clinical nutritionist, observes, "More and more people are now aware and acknowledging the fact that they are lactose intolerant. With social media promoting lactose-free and plant-based milks, people are finally ready to talk about it."



Plant-based milks such as oats and almond are finding favour among those who are lactose intolerant.

Beyond a substitute

With conversations around lactose intolerance, wellness, and sustainability growing across parties and dinner tables, plant-based milks are occupying a space of their own — not just as substitutes but as credible choices in their own right.

While for some, the shift is about digestion; for others, it's about climate consciousness. Of course, the calories in plant milk play a crucial role too. "Cow's milk typically has 100–150 calories per 100 ml, while plant-based versions average closer to 25 calories depending on consistency," informs Gauravi. Lactose intolerance, she stresses, is a blanket term — subjective and different for each individual. "While some may be able to eat a few dairy products without any issues, some may not be able to take any dairy at all," adds Gauravi.

That said, she cautions that mindful choices matter. "Portion control is crucial when it comes to anything, including plant milk. While it may not affect some people, for others, having multiple cups of coffee or cereal loaded with plant milk may not be ideal."

Also, while plant milk may be a good mimic of cow's milk taste-wise, it isn't equivalent in nutrition. "Cow's milk naturally comes with a fair share of protein, calcium and minerals and is an important food group. Removing the entire food group from your diet without proper replacements can create deficiencies," she points out. "Unlike cow's milk, which naturally has fat for creaminess, plant-based milks rely on added stabilisers, emulsifiers, or vegetable oils for texture, and are often fortified with vitamins and minerals to make up for nutrients they lack naturally."

Plant milk on café menus

Walk into any café today, and chances are that you may be asked: "regular, almond, soy, or oat?" quite a lot. Ashish D'abreo, Q grader, coffee roaster and Co-founder of Maverick & Farmer Coffee and Partner at Good Farmer Foods explains, "For many guests, plant-based options are less about following a trend and more about finding what feels best for them, whether it's managing lactose intolerance, lighter choices, or plain curiosity."

Gurmeet Singh Arora, CEO and Founder, says, "We've seen plant-based milks move from being a niche request to a regular part of customer choices. While veganism contributes to this shift, a significant number of our guests choose plant-based alternatives for wellness reasons such as lactose intolerance, easier digestion, or managing cholesterol."

Wellness

A diet that has the right amount of protein, healthy fat, and whole carbs matters a great deal when you are managing menopause symptoms, writes Jayashree Bafna

Menopause: Why nutrition matters

Menopause is a natural biological transition that marks the end of menstruation and fertility. In India, women typically reach menopause around 46 and 47, slightly earlier than the global average which is 50 to 52. For some, it may occur prematurely due to surgery, chemotherapy, radiation or medical conditions. Although menopause is universal, the experience is highly individual.

Stages of menopause

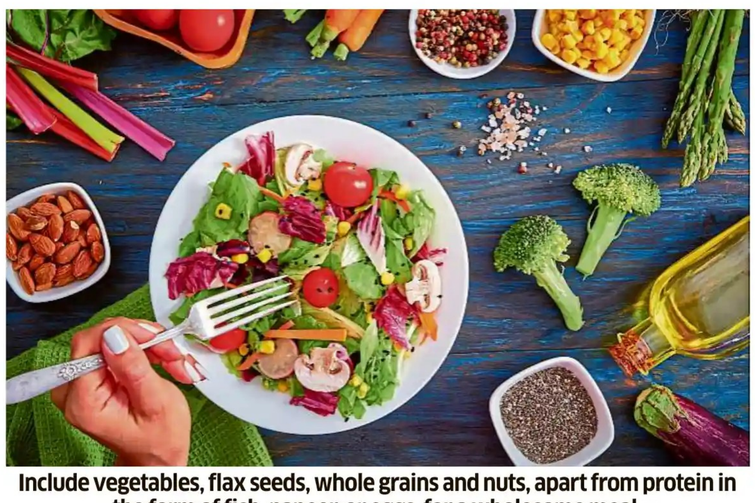
Perimenopause: This transition phase usually begins in the mid-40s and can last 3-5 years. Irregular periods, hot flashes, sleep disturbances, mood changes, vaginal dryness and abdominal weight gain are common during this phase due to fluctuating hormones.

Menopause: A woman is considered menopausal when she has had no periods for 12 consecutive months.

Post–menopause: This stage lasts for the rest of life. Hormone levels stabilise at lower levels, and while symptoms often reduce long-term risks such as heart disease, bone loss and metabolic changes become more pronounced. Declining estrogen acts like a domino effect. Estrogen once protected bones, kept metabolism steady, supported supple skin and helped regulate fat distribution. Its fall exposes the body to increased cardiovascular risks, reduced bone density and changes in mood and cognition.

Lack of awareness

The symptoms of perimenopause such as hot flashes, mood changes or sleep disturbances are often mistaken for stress or ageing. Many do not recognise that nutrition plays a major role in managing symptoms like bloating, joint pain, weight gain and fatigue. As a result, symptoms go unmanaged, preventive screening gets delayed and nutrition as an essential pillar of menopausal well-being is neglected.



Include vegetables, flax seeds, whole grains and nuts, apart from protein in the form of fish, paneer, or eggs, for a wholesome meal.

Managing symptoms

Nutrition during menopause is not just about symptom control; it's about long-term disease prevention. Food choices influence cardiovascular health, muscle mass, bone strength and overall inflammation. With the right nutritional strategies many symptoms become manageable and the risk of chronic diseases can be reduced.

Protein is the most important nutrient during menopause: With age and declining estrogen, muscle mass decreases quickly and can lead to a condition called sarcopenia. Reduced muscle slows metabolism, weakens bones, affects balance and increases fall risk. Women need 20-25 grams protein at each meal to support muscle maintenance. Moong dal, chana, rajma, lobia, curd, paneer, milk, eggs, fish especially sardines, rohu, tofu, tempeh, sprouts, quinoa, millets offer solid protein choices. Even distribution breakfast, lunch and dinner helps more than eating most protein at night.

Carbohydrates for blood sugar stability: Menopause increases insulin resistance, making blood sugar more difficult to regulate. Choosing low-glycemic high fibre carbohydrates helps stabilise energy, mood and cravings. Choose ragi, jowar, bajra, oats, red rice, brown rice, buckwheat. Avoid low-carbohydrate diets as they may worsen mood-swings and cravings

Healthy fats for heart and hormones: As estrogen levels drop, the risk of heart disease increases. Anti-inflammatory fats support heart health and hormone balance. Include fatty fish like salmon and sardines, as well as in chia seeds, flaxseeds, and walnuts, help lower inflammation and support cardiovascular function. Limit trans fats and excessive saturated fats.

Steps for bone health: Vitamin D deficiency and low calcium intake are widespread in India, making osteoporosis a major concern. The diet must actively support bone health by including following:
- **Calcium:** ragi, milk, paneer, curd, sesame seeds, amaranth (rajgira), drumstick leaves
- **Vitamin D:** sunlight exposure, fortified milk, supplements if advised
- **Magnesium:** pumpkin seeds, peanuts, spinach
- **Strength training:** at least 2-3 times/ week

Hydration and sleep

Low estrogen causes dryness from skin to digestion. Hydration through water-rich foods like cucumbers, citrus fruits, melons, and leafy greens provide fluid along with nutrients. Better sleep stabilises hunger hormones and improves daytime energy.

(The author is a consultant dietician and diabetes educator.)

HOT FLASHES: HOW TO COPE

Hot flashes are sudden, intense waves of heat that can drench your clothes and disrupt sleep. **Caffeine**, **spicy foods**, and **alcohol** are common culprits. Reducing them, especially in the evening, improves symptoms. Plant-based estrogens, known as phytoestrogens, may help. Found in **soybeans**, **flaxseeds**, and **legumes**, these compounds mimic estrogen in the body and have been linked to reduced hot flashes and improved mood.

GUT HEALTH MANTRAS

Hormonal shifts affect gut motility and microbiome balance, leading to bloating, constipation or food sensitivities. Support the gut with fermented foods (kefir, yogurt, and sauerkraut), prebiotic-rich foods (garlic, onions, bananas, and asparagus) and fibre-rich meals from whole grains, fruits, vegetables and lentils. Mood fluctuations and sleep disturbances can drive cravings, gentle comforting meals like khichdi, dal-rice, vegetable soups and a small piece of dark chocolate helps soothe without derailing health goals. Reducing caffeine in the evening improves sleep quality and reduces late-night snacking.

HPV VACCINE: All you need to know

DR RAVI MEHROTRA

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is incredibly common and spreads through skin-to-skin contact. In fact, most people will encounter it at some point. The tricky part? It usually has no symptoms, so people spread it without knowing. While most infections clear up on their own, the high-risk strains can linger, silently causing cellular changes that turn into cancer over 10 to 20 years.

HEALTH IN THE HEADLINES

In India, this "silent" progression is deadly because screening rates are low. Most women don't realise they're sick until the disease is already advanced.

A powerful shield

The HPV vaccine isn't just another shot; it's one of the most effective cancer-prevention tools we've ever had. It doesn't contain a live virus, so it can't give you HPV. Instead, it prepares the immune system to block the virus on sight. Countries that adopted this early have seen cervical cancer rates plummet. After hundreds of millions of doses worldwide, the safety record is solidly established by the World Health Organisation.

LONG-TERM IMPACT

A landmark study from the Karolinska Institutet, published in The BMJ (Feb 2026), provides the most definitive evidence yet on the long-term impact of the quadrivalent HPV vaccine. The study followed over 926,000 girls and women, proving that the protection isn't just effective—it's remarkably durable. For those vaccinated before age 17, the risk of invasive cervical cancer plummeted by nearly 80 per cent. Protection remained robust 15+ years post-vaccination, with no indication that immunity "fades" as women enter their prime risk years. Even those vaccinated at age 17 or older saw a 37 per cent reduction in risk, though the benefits took about a decade to fully manifest.

India's big move in 2026

Change is finally here. Starting in March 2026, the Indian government is launching a massive campaign to provide free HPV vaccines to all 14-year-old girls.

Why 14? Because the vaccine works best before there's any chance of exposure to the virus. Using the Gardasil 4 vaccine, the programme aims to reach over one crore (10 million) girls every year. You'll be able to book appointments through the U-WIN Platform, the same digital system that made the CoWIN rollout possible. This isn't just a medical drive; it's one of the biggest cancer-fighting moves in history. HPV vaccination is not about stigma, sexuality, or moral judgment. It is about prevention—pure and simple. It is about shielding our next generation from a cancer that devastates families, steals lives too early, and is overwhelmingly preventable. The science is clear. The vaccine is safe and effective. And from 2026 onward, it will be free and accessible for India's adolescents.

For parents, this is a rare moment: a chance to prevent a deadly cancer before it ever begins. The question is no longer whether we should vaccinate. It is whether we can afford not to.

Should boys get it too?

While the government programme focuses on girls, doctors agree that vaccinating boys is a smart move. HPV can also cause throat, anal, and penile cancers, along with genital warts. Vaccinating boys helps stop the virus from circulating in the community. If it's within your budget, you can find options for boys through private healthcare providers.

(The author is founder, Centre for Health Innovation and Policy Foundation, and ex-director, ICMR-National Institute of Cancer Prevention.)

DIFFERENT STROKES

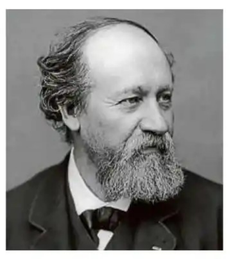
The mentor who changed Monet

'Beach Scene at Trouville' by Boudin. PIC COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA

A century after the famed French artist's death, Giridhar Khasnis writes about a chance encounter in 1858 that helped shape modern art and continues to find echoes in galleries around the world

Unexpected encounters often shape the world of art. The chance meeting of Eugène Boudin (1824-1898) and Claude-Oscar Monet (1840-1926) in 1858 not only altered the latter's artistic trajectory from a skilled caricaturist to a renowned landscapist but also helped establish the foundation of Impressionism.

At the time, most landscape painting took place in studios, where artists composed their works from sketches, memories, and academic conventions. Nature was interpreted, refined, and controlled in closed spaces before appearing on canvas. Boudin challenged that tradition and asserted the importance of painting en plein air, or in the open air. "Everything that is painted directly and on the spot," he insisted, "possesses a force and vivacity of touch that is absent in studio work."



Eugene Boudin. PIC COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA

Self-portrait by Monet. PIC COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA

A talent for sketching

In 1858, Monet was a teenager living in the bustling port town of Le Havre in northern France. He disliked formal schooling and considered the classroom a kind of prison. He, however, showed a talent for sketching. His lively caricature portraits were admired and sought after by locals, and often displayed in the window of the local frame shop. Hanging in the same window were seascapes by Boudin, a sight the young artist could not stand.

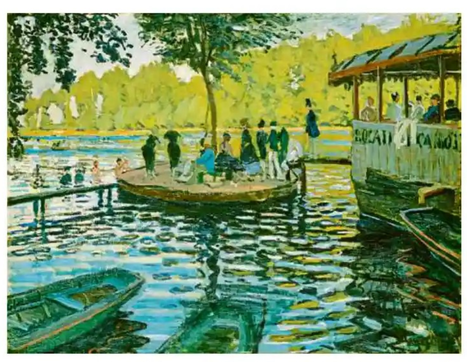
The two artists met by chance at the frame shop. Boudin seized the initiative to compliment Monet for his caricatures. "You are gifted," he said. "Your sketches are amusing, clever, and bright. But I hope you will not stop there."

Being 16 years older, he urged Monet to 'study, learn to see and to paint, draw, make landscapes'. "The sea and the sky, the animals, the people, and the trees are so beautiful," said Boudin, "just as nature has made them, with their character, their genuineness, in the light, in the air, just as they are."

Monet was struck by Boudin's earnest and sincere words, but resisted any change in his work. He even avoided Boudin at first, but eventually yielded to his genteel nature, persistence and unwavering kindness.

A simple man with a humble devotion to nature and art, Boudin recognised his own limitations. But he possessed a sensitive eye and a clear mind, articulating his observations in simple terms. Monet not only observed Boudin at work but also benefited from their conversations. "My eyes were finally opened, and I truly understood nature; I learned at the same time to love it."

'The Beach at Trouville' by Monet. PIC COURTESY: THE NATIONAL GALLERY, UK



'La Grenouillere' by Monet. PIC COURTESY: MET MUSEUM

Beginning that summer, the two artists frequently sketched and painted together along the Normandy coast. Boudin introduced Monet to the practical techniques of making preparatory studies to compose landscapes. He taught Monet to observe nature, analyse its light and values, and translate those extraordinary but fleeting effects onto canvas.

Boudin's passion, artistry and commitment captivated Monet. As he observed Boudin set up his easel on the beaches of Normandy, he underwent a profound transformation. Reflecting on that pivotal moment that opened the door to his artistic destiny, he said: "I looked on with some apprehension, then more attentively, and suddenly it was as if a veil was torn away; I had understood, had grasped what painting could be. Boudin's absorption of his work and his independence were enough to decide the entire future and development of my painting." He not only remained faithful to Boudin's early advice but also always acknowledged the significant impact Boudin had on his artistic development.

A new way to observe

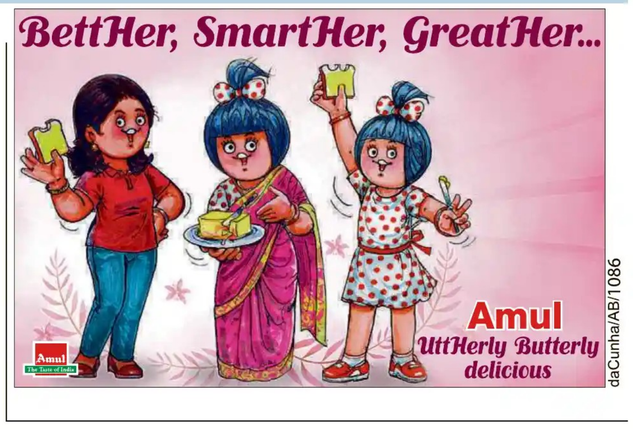
In the following years and decades, Monet went on to revolutionise landscape painting. He showed new ways to perceive, observe, and interpret nature. He was a central figure in the First Impressionist Exhibition in 1874, to which he invited his mentor Boudin to participate as well. The exhibition was a critical and commercial failure, but the artists continued their passion, hosting seven more Impressionist exhibitions between 1876 and 1886.

Over time, Impressionism became recognised as one of the most significant and discussed art movements. What was once mocked became celebrated. The reputation of Monet and his fellow Impressionists soared, and their works were eagerly collected. Art critics began to acknowledge the Impressionist technique as an innovative style capable of conveying a new way of perceiving the world. At the heart of this change was Monet, whose 'fragments of colour' were eventually hailed as strokes of genius.

Art historian Robert Hughes later wrote that, at the core of Monet's achievement was his sense of time. "He was fascinated by the discontinuous nature of reality. He constructed a unified light, meaning, and mood from an accumulation of specific fragments, each the size of a brush mark. He gave Impressionism the dignity of classical art."

In his later years, Monet settled in Giverny, where he created the garden that would become both his sanctuary and his subject. This symbolic paradise is now a must-see for art lovers visiting France. As his vision deteriorated in his final years, he rarely left his garden. His world narrowed to the lilies and the light he had cultivated for decades. Despite his failing eyes and a trembling hand, he continued to paint until the very end

Monet passed away in 1926 at the age of 86. His mentor and friend, Boudin, often referred to as 'the king of the skies', died much earlier on August 8, 1898, aged 74.



Celebrated artist and sculptor Satish Gupta's ongoing exhibition is a space where seeing becomes listening and presence transforms into understanding, writes Neha Kirpal

Stillness as an act of balancing

ON THE PALETTE

A few of Gupta's works that are on display.

Celebrated Indian artist, sculptor and poet Satish Gupta's solo exhibition in Ahmedabad encourages one to slow down, reflect and enter a space where seeing becomes listening, and presence leads to deeper understanding. One of Gupta's most expansive and significant exhibitions to date, its immersive installations propose stillness not as escape, but as survival, as a quiet yet radical act of balance and healing.

Presented by Devin Gawarvala, founder of Bespoke Art Gallery, the exhibition examines Gupta's practice as an ongoing journey undertaken over several decades, and across many forms and materials, such as paint, ink, copper, gold, and text. His work is shaped through reduction and concentration. Moving from the human body to the cosmos, certain forms return again and again in his work, each time with subtle changes.

Renowned for the spirituality and Zen spirit that permeates his work, Gupta stands among India's most celebrated and multifaceted artists. While not a practising Zen Buddhist, Gupta feels deeply aligned with Zen thought and experience. Introspection and meditation remain integral to his process.

Once on a cloudy day, Gupta arrived at the top of a mountain where a monastery was. At the edge of the mountain, he saw an ethereal light filtering through the mist in the valley. "I observed that the Shunya that I was looking for was all around me. It was all white, and I was at the centre. I had a Satori-like experience. I felt totally porous; I did not exist. The elements were going through me. I was ecstatic!" he recalls.

In a burst of inspiration, Gupta took his brush and ink and drew the Zen circle in one swift stroke, as if his life depended on it. "At last, it manifested itself on paper. It was the most perfect thing that I had ever created. I didn't feel the need to paint anymore. My life was complete," he said.

Each idea arrives with its own demand for expression — sometimes as a sculpture, sometimes as a painting, a haiku, or a large-scale installation. Gupta repeatedly returns to certain motifs — the moon, clouds, lotus, the meditator, and silence. Gupta recalls sketching a small drawing on an old airline ticket during a flight from London to New Delhi — a wave questioning its destiny before dissolving on the shore. That fleeting moment eventually evolved into The Cosmic Wave, a monumental sculpture.

Early in his career, Gupta received the prestigious Sanskriti Award, and his art has been showcased in over 40 solo exhibitions in prominent galleries across India and abroad. His paintings and sculptures are part of the collection of The Museum of Sacred Arts in Brussels and The National Gallery of Modern Art, Delhi. They were exhibited at the Shanghai Museum of Modern Art and the National Museum in Slovenia. Meditations on a Mandala, his sculpture in copper, was displayed at Art Laguna Prize, Arsenal, and at the India Art Fair in 2023. Notably, he collaborated with India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, on a sculpture painting "Om Namo Shivaya" for a charitable cause, which was auctioned by Sotheby's.

His monumental metal sculptures and murals are displayed in museums, hotels, airports and ashrams worldwide. His studios, Zazen in Gurugram, surrounded by a Zen garden of his own design, and Zen Studio 59 in the heart of Delhi, are tranquil spaces for contemplation. Known for their meditative quality, his studios reflect his continuous quest for spiritual enlightenment through art. Interestingly, Gupta was not trained as a sculptor, which makes his thinking out of the box, non-traditional and intuitive. "I was not afraid to innovate and improvise, which helped me devise my own technique. I call myself an accidental sculptor," he said.

Exhibiting in Ahmedabad holds particular significance for the artist. The city's rich cultural and philosophical heritage, combined with the distinctive architecture and ambience of Bespoke Gallery, creates a setting uniquely attuned to his work. "Art is about creation after all, in what medium you express yourself is not important. Too many of us limit ourselves once we find a 'style' and imprison ourselves in our persona. I do not wish to be bound. For me, there is no duality, whether I am creating in two or three dimensions," he concluded.

A Haiku of a Still Mind: Continuum· Consciousness· Coherence. will continue at Bespoke Art Gallery, Ahmedabad, till March 10.

MUSEUM MATTERS

Where time unfurls in gold...

At Russia's most celebrated museum, a mechanical peacock marks the hour as visitors move through halls once occupied by emperors, writes Khursheed Dinshaw

The child's blue eyes widen with amazement as her blonde pigtails sway slightly from side to side when she turns her head to look at The Peacock Clock inside The State Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg. The iconic clock was a gift to Empress Catherine II from Grigory Potemkin, a Russian defence leader and nobleman.

The workmanship of celebrated English jeweller, inventor and entrepreneur James Cox is evident in this clock, whose movement is expertly hidden behind a big mushroom displayed at the centre. There are two clock dials — the Roman figures represent hours, while the minutes are shown in Arabic figures. A dragonfly rotating at one-second intervals serves as the clock's second hand. The child watches as the owl, the peacock and the rooster are set in motion.

While the cage rotates, the owl moves its head, opens and shuts its eyes and raises its paw. The intricate cage is adorned with little bells that play melodiously. That is the cue for the star of the clock, the peacock, to step in. It raises its regal head, opens its resplendent tail and slowly turns around before turning back and folding its tail. Just as you think the spectacle has ended, the rooster crows a few times.

This shining golden eagle (the national symbol of Russia) decorates the main entrance to the museum.

The Peacock Clock is just one of the three million works of art and artefacts at The State Hermitage Museum. Since 1988, The Hermitage has been listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's largest picture gallery. It would take you 11 years to see the entire collection of this magnificent museum if you spent one minute at each exhibit and eight hours a day at the museum. Viewing the entire collection requires walking 24 kilometres. Counted among Russia's masterpieces, the museum is one of the most well-known in the world. The majority of the collection is housed inside the Winter Palace, the former official residence of the Romanov Tsars. Construction began in 1754 and was completed in 1762. Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli, an Italian architect whose works can be seen across Russia, designed the Winter Palace in a distinguishing architectural style known as Elizabethan Baroque. There are 350 rooms housing rich exhibits. One of the largest state rooms of the Winter Palace is Saint George's Hall, or the Great Throne Room. Saint George was the patron saint of the Russian Tsars, and the image of Saint George slaying the dragon can be seen here.

The Grand Kolyvan vase. Pic by author

The corridor of the Raphael Loggias.

The State Rooms not only house exquisite artwork but also provide a glimpse into the grandeur of the Russian Tsars. The Diamond Room and the Gold Room contain an amazing collection of diplomatic gifts from Europe and Iran. The Diamond Room also showcases jewellery and jewel-encrusted artefacts of the Romanov Tsars.

The Twenty-Column Hall was designed as a Greek temple. You are instantly drawn to the monolithic columns made from Serdobol granite. The floor features a stone mosaic design and, as you glance at the coffered ceiling, an elaborate painted surface stares down at you. Karelian birch display cases showcase art collections acquired from ancient Italy. Vases dating back centuries and statues narrating mythology surround you in this lavish room. Room after room displays exquisite artwork by reputed painters. The sheer number of these treasures will astound you.

You continue to walk from one space to another, awed by the stunning exhibits meticulously sourced from around the world. You reach the domestic chapel, where the Imperial family attended services when they lived in the Winter Palace. You notice that there are no benches inside the chapel because attendees stand during services.

Inside the Room of the Great Vase, a Russian soldier's green uniform mirrors the main exhibit — The Grand Kolyvan Vase, a jasper masterpiece. Counted among the largest stone vases in the world, it weighs 19 tonnes. Dwarfing humans, the green jasper vase stands 2.57 metres high. This queen of vases took 12 years to create.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com

Classifieds

More value, more impact

For your Classified Advertisements, Contact: 45557160/162/163/187/98451 14560 / 97318 10277 email: dhclassifieds@deccanherald.co.in

Fachhochschule Dortmund
University of Applied Sciences and Arts
LOOKING FOR YOUR BACHELOR'S OR MASTER'S IN GERMANY?
Study in
Fachhochschule Dortmund
*Public University
*No Tuition-Fee
*Direct admission
Unique pathway programme from URH for meritorious Indian students to gain direct admission to Bachelor/ Master Degree Courses at FH Dortmund – University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Germany.
Batch 2- last date for application 30th April 2026
For more details contact us!
98450 70915 , 98455 47254
umita.melwani@urh-edu.in
www.urh-edu.in
URH Head office, Ulsoor Bengaluru
SCAN ME
URH - FH DORTMUND PARTNERSHIP

RV Learning Hub
RV Pre-University Colleges
THE FIRST BATCH OF ACHIEVERS
JEE Main 2026 (Session 1) Toppers
ADMISSIONS OPEN
SCIENCE:
• JEE Advanced + Main + KCET Decoded
• JEE Main + KCET Decoded
• NEET UG Decoded
COMBINATIONS: PCMB/PCMC
COMMERCE:
• Commerce Decoded CLAT and CA Foundation
COMBINATIONS: BAMS/BAES/BAME
99.62 Percentile Stotr Ramakrishnan
99.57 Percentile Totam Setty Ritvik
99.28 Percentile Abhinav Reddy Ireddy
99.21 Percentile Avinash Subramanian Harish
99.07 Percentile Fatima Bint Kashif
98.99 %ile Sathvik Kadamannaya
98.85 %ile Sidharth S
98.73 %ile Aaryan Prakash Kashyap
98.68 %ile Suraj S Venkatesha
98.52 %ile Ved Harish
98.32 %ile Mohith Shekar
98.27 %ile S Dhiya
98.25 %ile Nishith Srinivasan
98.10 %ile Shamanth S Raghav
97.65 %ile Ajay Dhananka
97.58 %ile Drishti Kumari
97.54 %ile Mohamed Razeen
97.54 %ile Ruma Zaara
97.27 %ile Norah Philo Thomas
97.15 %ile Tarun Malyavantham
97.07 %ile B S Samarth
96.85 %ile Preetham Gowda P
96.83 %ile Putrevu Akhil Tej
96.75 %ile Kavan Cariappa
96.56 %ile Aneesh M S
96.30 %ile Nikhil Prasanna Rao
95.86 %ile Rounak Sethia
95.75 %ile Tanush Ram
95.75 %ile Vaibhav Venkatesh Pradeep
95.61 %ile Advaith Narasimhan
95.50 %ile Adya Shetty
95.50 %ile Hritish Achyuta D
95.46 %ile Sai Gaurav T
95.35 %ile Shaurya Murali Ramanath
95.22 %ile Roshan Jacob
95.22 %ile Nirali Yesdani
95.09 %ile Dhruva Gangadhar Kadam
95.06 %ile Tarun Gowda K
OUR CAMPUSES
Bengaluru
NMKRVPU | SSMRVPU | RVPU South | RVPU North
RVPU Harohalli | RVPU E-City | VVN PU College
Other Cities
RVPU Mysuru
CONTACT US:
RV Learning Hub, 131/78, Sunkenahalli, Bull Temple Road, Bengaluru - 560019, Karnataka, India
+91 8317346585
admissions.rvlh@rvei.edu.in
www.rvlearninghub.com
Go, change the world
Scan Here to Apply

Classifieds

More value, more impact

PROPERTY CORNER Classifieds

COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT KORAMANGALA CLEAR TITLES, E- KHATA

Site Area 2900 sq ft, Built up 6350 sq ft, Near Sony World Junction, Behind Oasis Mall, having two side roads front and back, reasonable price

CONTACT: 9844005652

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Sites

Banashankari

BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE- BDA-AVAILABLE/ WANTED 20x30, 30x40 40x60, 50x80 SITES. BRINDAVAN ASSOCIATES- 9980863245/ 9945333993

COMMERCIAL PLOT For Sale at Banashankari 6th Stage,On 100ft Road 50x80, North Facing Contact: 9980775693

BTM Layout

SITE FOR Sale 30×40 40×60 East North Facing BTM 2nd Stage 25000 to 30000, 9945377119 /9844099557

Bannerghatta Road

SITE FOR sale: 40/60ft, NF, @Raja Iris Residencial layout,1.5 cr. ,Begur koppa road, Cont: 9035917223

Kanakapura Road

JUDITIAL LAYOUT, 50X80,East Facing 16000/- Banashankari 6th Stage, 2nd Block_50X80,Commercial _Site,11crore Negotioble :9916375577

Basaweshwaranagar

SALE BASAWESHWARNGR 40x60 Site, North Facing, clear titles, Adjacent to Bharath gas. Contact Owner. 9480060249

Devanahalli

SITE SALE BIAAPA Approved E-Khatha Coffee Board Layout, Meesaganahalli, N/E/S Corner 30x80 Rs. 6000/ sft. 9731121679.

J P Nagar

BDA APPROVED Layout JPNagar 5th Phase 2400Sft W/F Site Brokers Excuse Genuine Buyers: 9341273990

JP.NAGAR 1ST Phase, 2,040 SqFt BDA Approved, SE Corner Site Navodaya Layout, beside Banashankari Metro and behind Sobha Dewflower Apartments 16,500/SqFt. 9900955337

JPNAGAR 7TH PHASE AVAILABLE MEASURING 45x40, 2 SITES SOUTH EAST CORNER AND SOUTH WEST CORNER, BBMP E KHATA (11B) .7022435107

Kempegowda Layout

BDA SITE for Sale Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout 40x60 1st block H Sector Near 330, feet PRR Road South Broker Excuse genuine buyers only: 7349549087

KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, Commercial/ Residential BDA Site for Sale 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80. Contact Kumar 9945119449

BDA SITE for Sale 20x30, Site No. 1431, 6th block , Kempegowda layout, Broker Excuse: 7899570235

Nagarabhavi

"NAGARABHAVI BDA Complex near 30x50 Site 40 feet Road Annapooreswari Layout Good location. 9448733456/ 7259675150"

"30X40 EAST_FACING BBMP A-Katha Site for sale near Nagarbhavi Ring Road Ready for Construction. 9880031654"

FOR SALE: Three bedroom duplex house with garage in Gardenvillas, Maruthinagar, Nagarabhavi Road. Brokers excuse. 9242197954.

Hosa Road

NEAR HOSA ROAD METRO STATION, Hosur Road: BBMP A Katha 60x75 West Facing site Sale 9,000/-Psft. 8618175917/ 7899023497

R T Nagar

R.T.NAGAR 40X60 East Facing Vacant Site BDA Approved Excellent Location For Sale Call: 9845378269 7829203369

Sanjaynagar

1400SQFT RESIDENTIAL Old House G+1,For Sale in Sanjayanagara Near_Police Station_Rs_30000/- 9845600007 /9844445666

SANJAYNAGAR KEB LAYOUT BDA 1050sft North West corner 40 feet Road E- Khatha, 9341260828 7829203369

Uttarahalli

SALE 1717SFT Site West Facing Poorana_Pragna Layout Uttarahalli Contact: 9880425607

Vishweshwariah Layout

BDA SITE SALE VISHWESHWARAIAH LAYOUT 2nd Block 40X60 NORTH FACE NEAR 100FT ROAD GOOD LOCATION CONTACT: 8892901567

20X30, 30X40, 40x60, 50x80 VISHWESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, NO BROKERAGE CONTACT: 9741893779

"30X40 BDA ONE,TWO BHK 5 UNITS RENTAL HOUSE SALE 5TH BLOCK VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT- 9845143579"

BDA SITE For Sale @ Vishweshwaraiah Layout 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 Contact: 6363496142 9845555666

RAILWAY LAYOUT 2nd Stage, West South Corner, 1170 Sqft, Near Vidyanikethan School Ullal Road, BDA Katha: 9164089633

Whitefield

"FOR SALE Total_2800 Sqft North_facing_Site Immadihalli Near_White Field, Good location. 9342493875"

Akshaynagar

BANNERAGATTA ROAD Akshaya Nagar 52x72 SEC 14000/, 50X97 SF 12000/-, 45X90 EF 14000/- NEGOTIABLE 9449655947

Rajarajeshwari Nagar

RR.NAGAR BEML 5th Stage 6560.Sqft. West Facing, Vastu Site Sale, Suitable for Apartment. Contact: 9448121223.

FOR SALE

BDA SITE No. 90, BTM 1st Stage, North facing 40×60, 60 ft. Road, Adjacent to JALA BHAVAN, Between Bannerghatta Road to Jayanagar East End Road, Approx 100 mtr. to Bannerghatta Main Road.

Genuine Buyers Call:

Muralidhar: 98453 01599

Industrial & Factory

Tumkur Road

SALE 108 Acres Agriculture Land near Nelamangala Suitable for Warehouse/ Industry/ Residential/ Fantasy Park. 9141326819

10 ACRES for Sale Industrial Land Suitable for Industry/ Warehouse Contact Only Genuine Buyers. 9141326819

House

J P Nagar

FIRST PHASE 1890sft,3BHK OCCC_Flat,3.50cr/1080sft Semi-furnd _2BHK_Flat 7800/-30x40,3BHK,Duplx 2.85cr/20x30,4units 1.50cr/30x40,2BHK,House 1.90cr:9964652358

Uttarahalli

UTTARAHALLI BHARAT HOUSING SOCIETY, OPPOSITE PARK, 20X40 WEST FACING 3 BHK DUPLEX HOUSE SALE. 9945724472.

General

Out-Station

FOR SALE

BEACH FACING PROPERTY AT KOTA, UDUPI DISTRICT.

92 CENTS, WITH ONE HOUSE 5.98 CRORES, CLEAR TITLES. **DIRECT OWNER** 9481801053

Commerical

Basaveshwaranagar

BASAVESHWAR NAGAR 100 Feet Road Commercial 40X60 BDA Property For Sale Call: 9341260828

Agricultural Land

Out-Station

AGRICULTURAL LAND For-Sale at Yadgir Dist Naykal Village Near-to Main Road 11.28 Acres. 9880563629 9448473358

DH DECCAN HERALD Classifieds More value, more impact

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

REAL ESTATE

BOOK YOUR REAL ESTATE ADS IN DH ALL KARNATAKA + PRAJAVANI BENGALURU CITY ON SATURDAY + SUNDAY

@ 2481/-*

FOR 15 WORDS

www.dhclassifieds.com

BOOK NOW

*Conditions apply

Book your ad with us now! For more details contact:

+91 9845114560| +91 9886213331

+91 9731810277 | +91 9900428036 | 080-45557163/164

DH DECCAN HERALD ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

https://dhclassifieds.com

Book your Ad in 4 Easy Steps --Select Category-- Book ad

1 Select Category 2 Publication & Date 3 Compose Your Ad 4 Payment

Buy or Sell

anytime, anywhere in just 4 clicks.

Buy, sell, rent, or recruit with ease! Need to find a service, buy products, sell your property, or connect with the right candidate?
Find buyers, services, or talent by placing your classified ads in Karnataka's most trusted newspapers Deccan Herald & Prajavani —your one-stop platform to connect with the right audience across the state.

- Instant ad booking & easy browsing
- Buy & Sell from anywhere, at any time
- Simple, secure, and hassle-free process
- Reach the right audience across Karnataka

Book Now.
Scan the QR code & grab the best deal today!

More value, more impact

Classifieds

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Flat

Nagarabhavi

SALE DUPLEX Flat 3BHK EF, 2400Sft. 'E' Khatha. Nagarabhavi Circle. Near Teacher's Layout. 2Cr: 9606323666

Sahakarnagar

FOR SALE Luxury 3 BHK Flats available Reputed Builders Eco Design, Ample Space, Vasthu Compliance, Security and Greenery, Tatanagar, Bangalore. Brokers Not Entertained. Contact +91 9980883973

Sarjapur Road

2BHK APARTMENT Nambiar District 25 Sarjpura Road ready by 2030 to be paid in installments, five installments paid. Value 1.5Crores, 9886010995

Farm House/ Land/ Resorts

Hoskote

10 ACRES Land Farm House all Organic Fruits Very Good Location 10Lakh Per Acre Negotiable Pedda Thippasamudram Towards Hoskote: 9945195134

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL

Water Proofing

LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology- 9880916988

REAL ESTATE BUYING

Commerical

Multiple Locations

REQUIRED 1 2 & 3 BHK P.G Buildings or Service Apartments, Lands, 4000 to 1 Acre in Whitefield, Bellandur, Marathahalli, Mahadevapura, Kundanahalli. For long Lease : Call: 9900399006

Industrial & Factory

Multiple Locations

WANTED AROUND 3500-5000SQFT Industrial Shed or Land for purchase at Bommasandra Industrial area, Jigani Industrial area and Electronic City, No'brokers. Direct Owners call: 9481773963/ 9845931199.

Sites

Anjanapura

WANTED SITE ANJANAPURA BCCHS Layout Narayan`Nagar Jayanagar Housing Society, Banashankari 6th`Stage 30x40,40x60. Direct Registration. Broker Excuse. Call:9663454878

Multiple Locations

WANTED/ AVAILABLE Residential Sites in Basavanagudi, V.V.Puram, Jayanagar, J.P.Nagar, Kanakapura Road, Hanumanthnagar, Banashankari. Call: 9900399006

WANTED BDA Sites Arkavathi, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda & BDA other Layouts. Contact: SAPTHAGIRI (Opposite BDA Head Office):: 9036360366

Vishweshwariah Layout

BUYING/ SELLING 20x30,30x40,40x60 50x80 BDA sites at VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, BSK 6th-stage. Contact: 9844533371/ 9341733480

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Accommodation Available

Commercial

A CORPORATE Stay that feels like Home Best Prefered for: Official Guest House / Hostel Just 5 mins from Manyata Tech Park, near Airport Rd Features: Spacious Living- 6 (2 BHK) & 2 (1 BHK) Units 24/7 uninterupted Water Reliable Power Backup Solar Connectivity for all Bathrooms 24/7 Security with dedicated Security House Quiet & Peaceful Ambience ideal for professionals Perfect for Long-Term Corporate Stays Semi-Furnished for Convenient Living Elevator Facility Lavish parking space Note: Direct Leasing by Owner- No Brokers Contact : 9945077600/ 9844138816

DH Classifieds More value, more impact ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

RECRUITMENT

BOOK YOUR JOB ADS IN DECCAN HERALD ALL KARNATAKA + PRAJAVANI BENGALURU CITY

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY @ 550/-* PER SQCM

SINGLE / DOUBLE / MULTIPLE COLUMN

www.dhclassifieds.com

BOOK NOW

For more details contact:

+91 9845114560

+91 9900428036 | +91 9731810277

+91 9886213331 | 080- 45557163/164

COMERCIAL BUILDING available for rent basement plus three suitable for office tutorial diagnostic center super bazar in jayanagar contact 9845010485

Flats

BANNERGHATTA ROAD Prestige Notinghill Near Meenakshi Mall 2.5 BHK Fully Furnished Flat For Rent: 8747036555

Industrial And Factory

AVAILABLE INDUSTRIAL Warehouse 160000 sqft Vijipura, Hoskote. Contact: 9341234288/ 9663224353/ 9845417487.

Accommodation Wanted

Godown

WANTED/ AVAILABLE GODOWN, WAREHOUSE, INDUSTRIAL GODOWN Around Bangalore for Rent/ Lease, P.G building For Sale. Call: 9900399006

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Teachers/ Professors

LITTLE BLOOM English`High School and Chaitanya`PU College KR.Puram. Bengaluru-36. Ph:9739411881, 9739797756. Required College/School Principal`and English`Hindi Lecturer with`min`5years of`Experience, Receptionist ACADEMIC COORDINATORS and`IN-CHARGE, (Primary and`High School) Experienced, Trained/ Untrained Teachers to Handle`Nursery to`High School`to Teach`all Subjects. Computer Teacher`and PE Instructor for`2026-27 Qualification: NTT/D.Ed/BA B.Sc/B.Ed/M.Sc. MA/M.Ed.`Email: littlebloomenglishschool@gmail.com Walk-in Interview 16th,17th,18th. of`March Timings: 10.00am to`1.00pm

HOLY ANGEL'S High School,Hampinagar, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560104. Phone: 23404465/23202042 holyangels.highschoolrpclayout@gmail.com Requires Experienced Trained Teachers for the Academic year 2026-27 for Kannada (to handle Higher Primary). High School- Ist Language English, Mathematics, Science & SocialScience to handle VIII & IX. STATE & ICSE. Qualification: B.A./B.Sc., B.Ed/ M.A./M.Sc, M.Ed. Only English Medium Candidates need to apply

"PLANET BLOOMINGDALE" Requires Trained/`Untrained Pre-School Teachers, Housekeeping Staff and Lady Security for`Koramangala Branch. Call: 9243127555 / 9243101700

SRI HANUMAN GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS®

C M NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

Affiliated To CBSE, New Delhi (Affiliation No-830249) Bandappa Garden, J P Park, Muthyalanagar, B'lore-54. Ph:**080-23374802** website: **www.nps-jppark.in**

WE ARE HIRING

Join Our Professional Teaching Team

KINDERGARTEN, PRT, TGT, PGT, NON-TEACHING POSTS

Open Position: - English, Kannada, Hindi, Maths, Science, Social Science, Computer Science, Physical Teacher & Office Staff.

WALK IN-INTERVIEW : 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM (MON- FRI) OR Call.: **7676776937, 9845054168, 9900343399, 9880032218** OR Send your Resume to E-mail: **nps.principal@gmail.com**

TEACHERS & LECTURERS WANTED ST. PHILOMENA'S ENGLISH SCHOOL AND PU COLLEGE, Vidyaranyapura. Bangalore-97, Invite applications from qualified candidates for all the subjects: TEACHERS: Nursery to Grade 10 (ICSE) LECTURERS: PCMB, PCMC (CET/ NEET) CEBA/ Kannada/ Hindi/ English. Requirements: B.A/ M.A/ B.SC/ M.S.C/ B.COM/ M.COM/ B.PEd/ M.PEd /B.Ed./ M.Ed. or equivalent Relevant teaching experience preferred (3 Years) Strong communication skills. Apply with: Resume Copies of qualifications Experience certificate Last date: [14th.March.2026] Contact: st.philomena.vrp@gmail.com 9945761253 8050384028

CRESCENT HIGH SCHOOL & PU College#28 Sultan Road Banagalore-02. Qualified Teachers are Required to teach in Pre-Primary, Primary Middle.& High`School (All Subjects Including Art`& Craft,Computer &.PET (Male.& Female Teachers) and PUC (Commerce-HEBA) Candidates with experience and fluency in English may`apply to Chairman, Enclosing Bio-data`& photostat copies of the testimonials within 15`days by`Email: mmacrescent@gmail.com For`more details Call:9071120120 7019929814.

REQUIRED EXPERIENCED Primary and High School Teachers with B.A / B.Sc, B.Ed / M.A / M.Sc, M.Ed to teach Science, Social Science, Mathemetics, English, Hindi & PE Teacher. Required Librarian, Lab Assistant & Drivers. Walk-in-interview. Contact: Lalith Castle International School, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Blore-98. Mob: 9620464800 Email: lcis.rrnagar@gmail.com

REPUTED PU COLLEGE @ HESARAGHATTA ROAD REQUIRES PRINCIPAL AND PET, NCC, FACULTY MEMBERS FOR ENGLISH, ACCOUNTANCY, COMPUTER SCIENCE, ECONOMICS, BUSINESS STUDIES, HINDI. CONTACT: 6360291124. Mail: ashakashyap1380@gmail.com

PREMIER HIGH SCHOOL, SRIRAMPURAM requires Headmistress & Teachers for Primary (English, Social) and High School (Maths, Science) (Ladies Preferred). Contact: 9538836721

ST FLOWERS ENGLISH SCHOOL ICSE-STATE, Bangalore 9686732171, 080-23399884/ 080-23408832, stflowerenglishschool@gmail.com Required Experience Trained Teachers for the Academic Year 2026-2027 For Primary and High School Kannada, Hindi, English, Social Teacher (MA , B.Ed) Maths, Science (M.Sc , B.Ed) Physical Education (BPEd, MPEd) Computer Science (M.Sc, B.Ed) Nursery Teachers NTT, Basic Degree with B.Ed Trained teachers.

TRIVENI PUBLIC School, (CBSE & ICSE) Bagalagunte invites applications from qualified and experienced teachers for the following subjects: English, Hindi, Mathematics, Science (PCM & CBZ), EVS, and All Subjects (Primary & high school). Contact number 6360291124 Mail ashakashyap1380@gmail.com

REQUIRES EXPERIENCED Primary and High School Teachers with B.A / B.Sc., B.Ed / M.A / M.Sc., M.Ed to teach Science, English, Mathematics and Sanskrit. English fluency is must. Walk-in-Interview. Contact Max Muller Public School, Mahalakshmi Layout, B'lore-96. Ph: 23376050. E-mail- maxmullerpublicschool.mlayout@gmail.com

HERITAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL Konanakunte, requires: HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS for`Physics Chemistry Biology PRIMARY TEACHERS for`all subjects`and KG COORDINATOR WhatsApp`or email resume`to Mob:9901733776. Email: heritagepublicschoolkk@gmail.com

VALLABHA INTERNATIONAL School, Somanahalli, Kanakapura Main Road, Bangalore-82 Requires Highschool/ Primary Science, Mathematics, English, Social And Nursery Teachers: 9880439138/ 9591865641

Security & Detectives

JOB VACANCY Company Appointment SECURITY GUARD, SUPERVISOR, Salary Rs. 18,600 to 25,000, P.F., E.S.I., BONUS, FOUR Weekly off J.P.NAGAR, Marathahalli Kundalahalli. 9036374114 9686684009 9600325583 6361106051

Multiple Vacancy

ASHOKANAGAR CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

Bangalore-560 050. Ph: 080-26506213, 26606365, M: 99642 16663

An established Co-operative Bank invites application from qualified and experienced Retired/Voluntary Retired Bank executives for appointment as Branch Manager/Senior Assistant and Junior Assistant on CONTRACT BASIS

I. Required qualifications and experience

1. Branch Manager
- Bachelor's degree in Finance/Masters in Business Administration/CAIIB.
- 5 to 8 yrs of experience in banking or financial services with at least 2 yrs in a Managerial Role.
- Knowledge of Cooperative banking principles, retail banking, and SME lending
- Strong communication, leadership and interpersonal skills
- Ability to manage operations and support business growth
- Proficiency in MS office and banking software systems.
- Will oversee daily branch operations, ensuring RBI compliances, driving business growth and delivering excellent customer service
- Age: Preferably not exceeding 65 years

2 Senior Assistant Bachelor degree in Finance/ MBA, would be added advantage 3 to 10 years' experience in all aspects of Banking/Financial services.

3. Junior Assistant Bachelor degree in Finance 2 to 5 years' experience in all aspects of Banking/Financial services.

II Terms of appointment

On Contract basis initially for a period of 2 yrs. extendable based on performance.

II. Remuneration : Remuneration will be consolidated amount based on qualification and experience.

How to Apply:

Eligible Candidates may submit their detailed resume with copies of educational & experience certificates along with a recent photograph within 15 days from the date of advertisement, addressed to the **CEO, Ashokanagar Cooperative Bank Ltd, # 1380/B, 6th Cross, Ashoknagar, Banashankari 1st Stage, 2nd Block, Bangalore-560 050. Email: ho@ashoknagarbank.com**

HRD & Admin

INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

Karnataka State Branch
No. 26, 1st Floor, Red Cross Bhavan,
Race Course Road, Bangalore- 560 001
Phone: 22264205 / 22268435
e-mail: ircskar@gmail.com;

REQUIRES

ASST. SECRETARY - 01

Graduate from any recognized university with ten years of vast administrative experience. A retired Gazetted Officer not below the rank of Group B having minimum 5 years of experience in Group A or B category.

NOTE: Salary negotiable depending upon qualification and experience. Application with testimonials should reach the undersigned at the above address on or before 16th March 2026 before 5.00 p.m. with candidate's mobile number, e-mail id.
For all further details and information please visit www.redcrosskarnataka.org

Sd/-
General Secretary

Marketing & Sales

WANTED MARKETING Manager, Tele Marketing and Marketing Executives for reputed Real Estate to sell Plots and Farm Land. Preferably experience candidates. Call: 9845041912

WANTED SALE'S EXECUTIVES experienced in industrial products selling with two wheeler Contact. AMIT INDUSTRIES 9739826852

Accounts & Finance

WANTED ACCOUNTANT Gents only and office Boy for Bright Aluminum Company at Jc Road Contract:98452 59183

RANKA STEELS Whitefield Unit looking to hire male & female candidate for Billing Department. With good basic computer knowledge & Typing Speed. Interested candidates Send Mail akshay@rankasteels.com or 9342248383.

Walk-in

MMET ENGLISH PRIMARY& HIGH SCHOOL

 # 8, Patel Kulappa Road, R.S. Palya, M.S. Nagar Post, Bangalore - 560033. Ph. 080-25450522, 72596 48179, 93428 54850

Please send your resume to Email: mmetschool@gmail.com

WANTED TEACHERS

Pre-Primary : PUC. NTT / Montessori

Primary: PET, (D.P.Ed)

High School : Maths & Chemistry (B Sc, B Ed) Hindi (BA, B.Ed)

KNSS VIDYAMANDIR ENGLISH PRIMARY & HIGH SCHOOL

Anandapura, T.C. Palya Main Road, Bangalore – 560 036. Ph. No. 080 – 2545 0522, 70224 77196, 94497 09292

Please send your resume to knssvidyamandirephs@gmail.com

Pre Primary : PUC, NTT / Montessori

Primary : Kannada, English, Hindi (PUC, D Ed)

Computer Teacher

Attractive salary with benefits offered. Walk-in interview on 14.03.2026 (Saturday) 10 AM onwards at MMET School.

General

WANTED for Billing Cashier`& Godown Incharge Qualification PU`or`Bcom Pass With Basic Computer knowledge Location wilson garden siddaiah Road`Near Shanti Nagar`Bus`stand Call:9845351200 9535218502

HIRING OFFICE ASSISTANTS & CLERKS (Textile Export Company) Bommanahalli, Bangalore. Mail: starsilks@gmail.com

MATRIMONIAL

Brides Wanted

Sindhi

Affluent Vegetarian Sindhi Bangalore Business Family Seeks Vegetarian Girl for B.Com., / Inter CA 28 / 5'5" Type-1 diabetic boy. For more details E-mail: kg681599@gmail.com.

Grooms Wanted

Hindu

A dedicated **Obstetrician & Gynaecologist,** 28, MBBS DNB, 156 cm, fair, from a respected, education-oriented Tamil family (Udayar Hindu), Chennai. Seeking a groom of parallel professional calibre—preferably in medicine—from a family of similar standing. He should be principled, forward-thinking, and purposeful in his pursuits. Family enquiries only.

Ct: 98410 78080

Kannada

Grooms Wanted

Hindu, 29/5' 2" Beautiful B.A+LLB Study self work Bangalore wanted Handsome smart, Edu, good earn Boy Gujarati, Kannada, P Bengali. Call: 8105076193/ 9038535529

Vokkaliga Gowda Unmarried 55 years M.com Graduate, Chickmangalore Native now well settled in Bangalore. Seeks suitable Groom Caste No Bar, Widower/ Divorce groom welcome Send details with Photo to: 9886277488 BROKERS EXCUSE

BUSINESS

Business to Business

Hotel & Restaurant

WELL FURNISHED Restaurant with well equipped kitchen & Everything in 1000 Sft area for SALE or RENT in Posh Vijaya Bank Layout, Bannerghatta Road. Lease Agreement Transferable. For Details Call: 9900001954

EDUCATIONAL

Admission

DIRECT PRIVATE Online Secondary, Intermediate, all Bachelors, Masters degrees March/ April, Nov/ Dec Examinations 9341273990

CAUTION NOTICE

Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.

Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bengaluru

Community Centre (R) - 1956

COMMUNITY CENTRE GROUP OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Accredited by NAAC

Affiliated to Dr. MANMOHAN SINGH BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY,

Approved by AICTE, New Delhi

#2/1, Natabhairava Shri V Vajramuni Road, 9th Cross, 9th Main, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru–560011. Ph: 080 26577851 website: www.cimsbschool.org

Hearty Congratulations

BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY RANK HOLDERS

CIMS - PG - MCA (BATCH 2023-25)

2nd Rank — Ms. JOSHI ARYA SUHAS

4th Rank — Ms. MEGHANA H

5th Rank — Ms. NANDINI R

CICMS - UG - BCOM (BATCH 2022-25)

5th Rank — Ms. UMEZA

7th Rank — Ms. VAISHNAAVI L

Shri. K M NAGARAJ, Chairman | Shri. CHIKKAIAH, Secretary | Dr. JANARDHAN T G, CIMS, Director | Dr. DHARMENDRA KUMAR T P, CICMS, Principal

TEACHING STAFF

Classifieds

More value, more impact

RERA NO. PRM/KA/RERA/1250/307/PR/280324/006755

ARVIND PROPERTIES

Mr. M.K. Ashok

A Perfect Place for Your Golden Years

E - Khata

BMRDA & RERA Approved

Ready for Registration

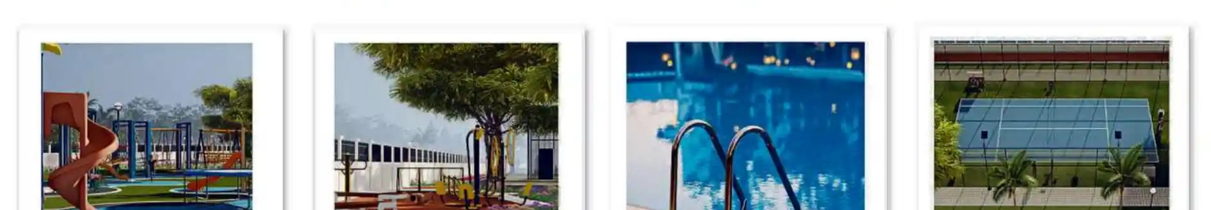
Bank Loan Available

A Peaceful Luxury Lifestyle After Retirement

50 Acres Project | 900 Premium Plots

Ready-to-build plots

Start your dream home construction from April



YOUR PLOT JUST MINUTES FROM THE UPCOMING METRO

Apartment-living facilities with an iconic CLUB HOUSE 50,000 sqft (G+4) that redefines comfort and class.

Nelamangala Sondekoppa Road

99986 08666

www.arvindproperties.com